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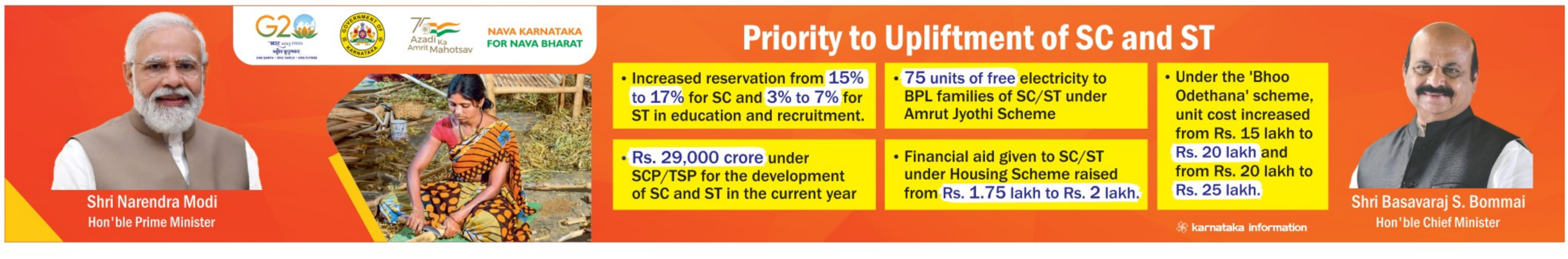

G20
Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav
NAVA KARNATAKA
FOR NAVA BHARAT
Priority to Upliftment of SC and ST
• Increased reservation from 15% to 17% for SC and 3% to 7% for ST in education and recruitment.
• 75 units of free electricity to BPL families of SC/ST under Amrut Jyothi Scheme
• Under the 'Bhoo Odethana' scheme, unit cost increased from Rs. 15 lakh to Rs. 20 lakh and from Rs. 20 lakh to Rs. 25 lakh.
• Rs. 29,000 crore under SCP/TSP for the development of SC and ST in the current year
• Financial aid given to SC/ST under Housing Scheme raised from Rs. 1.75 lakh to Rs. 2 lakh.
Shri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister
Shri Basavaraj S. Bommai
Hon'ble Chief Minister
karnataka information

CRISIS IN U.P.

Farmers in the grip of stray cattle menace

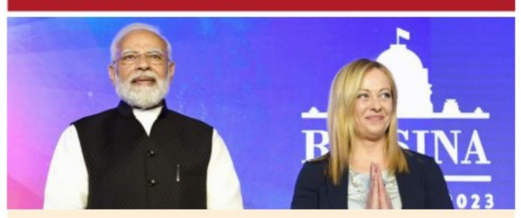
NEWS » PAGE 10

CAREER HARDSHIP

The difficulties an Ayurvedic doctor faces on the job

Public scepticism is a major hurdle in the field

EDITORIAL » PAGE 8



RAISINA SECURITY DIALOGUE

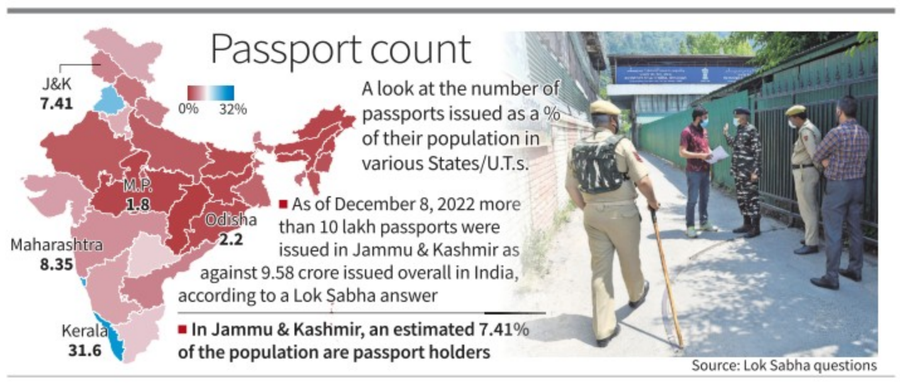
India quietly holds second security meet

NEWS » PAGE 10

Tardy police verification nips Kashmiri aspirations

Valley residents feel police are delaying the process of clearance to 'punish' people who may have relatives with separatist leanings; hundreds of applicants denied passports for 'security reasons'

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR


Passport count
A look at the number of passports issued as a % of their population in various States/U.T.s.
0%
32%
J&K 7.41
M.P. 1.8
Odisha 2.2
Maharashtra 8.35
Kerala 31.6
As of December 8, 2022 more than 10 lakh passports were issued in Jammu & Kashmir as against 9.58 crore issued overall in India, according to a Lok Sabha answer
In Jammu & Kashmir, an estimated 7.41% of the population are passport holders
Source: Lok Sabha questions

There is a new source of anxiety in the Valley after the Centre ended Jammu and Kashmir's special status under Article 370 of the Constitution on August 5, 2019. Delayed or no police verification or adverse police reports have left hundreds without jobs and passports. According to top official sources, these have reached a five-digit mark in Kashmir, the highest in the past decade.

Several J&K politicians, including former Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti and her daughter Iltija Mufti, alleged they were being denied passports. The Muftis have approached the court.

Imran Hafeez, 46, a doctor who works as an Associate Professor of Interventional Cardiology at the prestigious Sher-e-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS), Srinagar, was due to be promoted as an Additional Professor last December after appearing in a series of interviews. Though other doctors were promoted, Dr. Hafeez is among seven who were not allowed to join the new position. According to the institute's administration, "police verification is pending in these cases".

Dr. Hafeez's father, Moulvi Mushtaq, is the uncle of Hurriyat chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq. Suspected militants killed Mushtaq in 2004 when they opened fire on him inside a mosque in the old city. Their aim was to stall the Srinagar-Delhi talks involving the Hurriyat faction headed by Mr. Farooq.

Pending police verification has become a tool to deny some professionals government jobs. Hundreds are denied passports for "security reasons".

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

Eight parties write to PM against use of agencies for 'political witch-hunt'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Against the backdrop of the arrest of Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), eight Opposition parties on Sunday wrote a strongly worded letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi against the alleged misuse of Central agencies for "political witch-hunt", which, they said, is making Indian democracy veer close to an "autocracy".

The signatories are Telangana Chief Minister and Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) president K. Chandrasekhar Rao; Delhi Chief Minister and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) convener Arvind Kejriwal; Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann; West Bengal Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress president Mamata Banerjee; Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) patriarch Sharad Pawar; Bihar Deputy Chief Minister and Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Tejashwi Yadav; Samajwadi Party leader Akhilesh Yadav, National Conference leader Farooq Abdullah; and former Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray.

Cong. not on board

The Congress is not on board, signalling moves towards the formation of a non-Congress, non-BJP third front. Among the signatories, the NCP and the RJD are Congress allies.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

Indian man urinates on co-traveller on New York-Delhi flight

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

American Airlines handed over Aryan Vohra, 21, to the Central Industrial Security Force after he allegedly urinated on a male passenger on a flight from New York to Delhi on Saturday. The Delhi Police said they had filed a case against him.

The airline cancelled his bookings, including his return flight, and is conducting an inquiry that could even result in a lifetime ban. Mr. Vohra was heavily intoxicated and allegedly misbehaved with a woman co-passenger who complained that he was leaning on her; he nearly sat on an infant on a different seat before the mother pushed him away, according to the official complaint filed by the airline with the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, viewed by *The Hindu*. He then urinated on a U.S. national, who was asleep on seat 15G.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (IGI Airport) Devesh Kumar Mahla said the accused, a resident of Defence Colony here, was released after interrogation.

He has not been arrested since the inquiry has just begun.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

Rising heat

Water woes: The Malampuzha dam's catchment area on Sunday as water level falls in its reservoir in Palakkad, one of the hottest districts in Kerala where summer temperatures cross 40 degrees Celsius. The dam supplies water in Palakkad town and six panchayats. K.K. MUSTAFAH

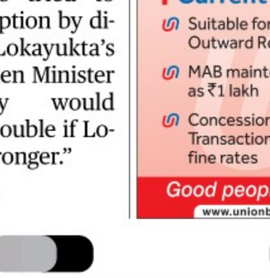
Adani project is like a govt.-to-govt. deal, says Sri Lankan FM

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

Colombo sees the Adani Group projects in Sri Lanka as a "government-to-government kind of deal", says Sri Lankan Foreign Minister M.U.M. Ali Sabry, as it was the Indian government that had identified the Group for infrastructure projects, including the northern Sri Lanka windpower project.

Stressing that his government was "very, very confident" that Adani Ports, Airports and Energy companies have strong fundamentals despite the $140-billion drop in share values since the report by Hindenburg Research, Mr. Sabry said that the Adani Group had already begun investing in its projects.

"So, we are not panicking," Mr. Sabry told *The Hindu* in an interview in New Delhi, where he met with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and participated in the Ministry of External Affairs' Raisina Dialogue conference. He also said that Sri Lanka is grateful for India's assistance with the economic crisis.



INTERVIEW ON » PAGE 11

T.N. BJP chief booked for 'false propaganda' on state of migrant labourers

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The Central Crime Branch of the Greater Chennai Police on Sunday filed a case against BJP Tamil Nadu president K. Annamalai on the charge of indulging in "false propaganda" against the ruling Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) over the issue of migrant labourers.

A senior police officer said the CCB's Cyber Crime Division had filed the case under Sections 153, 153A(1)(a), 505(1)(b) and 505(1)(c) of the Indian Penal Code for posting "false messages" on social media that promoted disharmony and enmity or feelings of hatred between groups on the grounds of religion, race, and language.

K. Annamalai

In the tweets posted on Saturday, Mr. Annamalai said the DMK MPs making vile comments on north Indians, a DMK Minister calling them "*panipuri wala*", and the DMK alliance partners demanding their exodus had "triggered what we see today". "The divide that DMK always stood for is coming back to bite them, and it is now their responsibility to fix this situation and is an opportunity for them to put an end to their defunct propaganda," he added.

Mr. Annamalai tweeted, "I understand DMK has filed cases against me for exposing their 7-decade propaganda against North Indian brothers. So, here is the video of what they spoke about, which was mentioned in my press release yesterday. I challenge Fascist DMK to arrest me!"

Imran Khan dodges arrest, addresses party workers

Press Trust of India
LAHORE

A team of the Islamabad Police on Sunday reached the Lahore residence of ousted Prime Minister Imran Khan to arrest him in the Toshakhana gifts case, but returned after an assurance from his legal team that he will appear before the court on March 7.

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf vice-chairman Shah Mahmood Qureshi said there is no mention of "arrest" in the warrants as an Islamabad sessions court has asked him to appear before it on March 7.

FULL REPORT ON » PAGE 13

Madal case: Cong. calls for two-hour bandh on March 9

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The arrest of V. Prashanth Madal, son of Channagiri MLA Madal Virupakshappa, by Lokayukta on bribery charges, is taking a political turn with weeks to go before the Assembly elections.

While the cash-for-contract has publicly embarrassed the ruling BJP that is already under pressure from allegations of 40% commission in public works, the Congress on Sunday announced a State-wide two-hour bandh on March 9. The Channagiri BJP MLA is seen as a close aide of former Chief Minister and Lingayat leader B.S. Yediyurappa.

Madal Virupakshappa

The Congress is likely to escalate the issue to further embarrass the BJP government as well as its two top leaders --- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah --- who in their rallies, are seeking another term for the BJP on the plank of corruption-free governance.

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai --- in a bid to claim the moral high ground ---- on Sunday reiterated that the BJP had strengthened Lokayukta. "We have strengthened Lokayukta. We have shown that we can take action against our own partymen if a mistake is committed. This is our moral strength," he told reporters at Balehonnur in Chikkaamagalur district. On the other hand, he said: "The Congress tried to cover up corruption by diluting the Lokayukta's powers. The then Minister Puttarangasetty would have been in trouble if Lokayukta was stronger."

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 6

NEARBY

Foxconn issues 'clarification'

BENGALURU
The "clarification" issued by Foxconn over its investment in Karnataka, a day after signing the Letter of Intent with the government, is said to have been triggered by public statements of politicians.

» Page 6

EDUCATIONPLUS » PAGE 3

Union Bank of India
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Union Trade Current Account
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MAB maintenance as low as ₹1 lakh
Concession on Forex Transaction charges and fine rates
*T&C Apply
Good people to bank with
www.unionbankofindia.co.in

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

23 The number of river systems to be developed for cargo and passenger vessel movement, as the government's focus is on increasing the movement through river systems, the Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal informed. "Till now we have 111 national waterways; out of this, we have discovered there are 23 river systems which are feasible for navigation", the Minister added. PTI

286 The number of primary and middle schools with zero enrolment of students in Himachal Pradesh that have been de-notified, Education Minister Rohit Thakur informed. "About 3,000 schools in the State are running with one teacher, while 455 schools are running (with teachers) on a deputation basis," the Minister said, pointing to the crunch in teaching and non-teaching staff in schools. PTI

88,605 In ₹ crore, the market capitalisation (mcap) of five of the top 10 valued firms together, with State Bank of India and ICICI Bank emerging as the biggest gainers. While HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, SBI, HDFC and Bharti Airtel witnessed gains in their market valuation, Reliance Industries, TCS, Infosys, Hindustan Unilever and ITC were the laggards. PTI

58 The number of quality control orders the government will come up with in the next six months for products such as aluminium, copper items and household electrical appliances. This is for containing sub-standard imports and to boost domestic industry, an official in the department for promotion of industry and internal trade said. "These mandatory norms will be for domestic and foreign players," PTI

20 The percentage of countries that have laws that specifically address sexuality education, while 39% have a national policy that addresses the same, according to UNESCO's Global Education Monitoring report. The report has pointed out that sexuality education in primary education is compulsory in 68% of countries and in secondary education in 76%. AP

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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A breakdown of the higher pension scheme

Which judgment provided for the new provision under the Employees' Pension Scheme of 1995? Who are the prospective beneficiaries? Will there be additional liabilities for the employers? What are the documents that need to be uploaded in order to avail of the higher pension?

EXPLAINER

T. Ramakrishnan

The story so far:

The long wait of subscribers of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) and those who retired after September 1, 2014 to apply for higher PF pension under the Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS) of 1995 came to an end on February 27 with the Organisation providing a web link on its members' page. The prospective beneficiaries fall under two categories – those who retired after September 1, 2014, and those who were in service prior to the date and continue to be in service. The critical element is that in either of the cases, employers must have made PF contributions in excess of the mandatory ceiling of the pensionable salary. Till now, 8,897 persons have sent their applications through their employers. The last date for availing the option of higher pension is May 3, 2023.

Why is the EPFO doing this?

The present exercise of the EPFO has been necessitated by the judgment of the Supreme Court given on November 4, 2022 in the *EPFO versus Sunil Kumar B* case. The verdict, apart from upholding the 2014 amendment brought in by the Union government, had given an opportunity to all employees, as on September 1, 2014, who did not exercise the option under paragraph 11 (4) of the EPS Rules for higher pension but were entitled to do so but could not due to the interpretation on cut-off date by the authorities. It clearly stated that the time to exercise the option "shall stand extended by a further period of four months." In the light of the Court's directions, the EPFO issued a circular on February 20, laying down the broad contours of eligibility.

The 2014 amendment, which came into effect in September that year, raised the pensionable salary cap to ₹15,000 a month from ₹6,500 a month, and allowed employers to contribute 8.33% of the employees' actual pay (even if it exceeds the cap) towards EPS. Between November 16, 1995 (the date of commencement of the Pension Scheme) and May 31, 2001, the salary cap was ₹5,000. Even though employers, in many instances, had been making PF contributions over and above the ceiling for their employees, only 8.33% of the pensionable salary cap had got transferred to the Pension Fund. Another important feature of the amendment is that unlike in the past when new employees covered under the Provident Fund (PF) compulsorily became members of the EPS, only those with the monthly wage of not exceeding ₹15,000 can now be members of the Pension Scheme.

The February circular was the second substantive circular on the subject of higher pension, as the PF body, on December 29, 2022, came out with one that was meant for those who retired before September 1, 2014 and after exercising the option for higher pension. In respect of this category of pensioners, the EPFO gave an online facility (which is no longer available since March 4) for the submission of documents to the effect that they had given, while in service, the option along with their employers and received the communication from the PF authorities regarding rejection of their applications. This was in line with the Court's stipulation in the Sunil Kumar case that the directions of the Court's judgment given in 2016 in the *R.C. Gupta versus Regional PF Commissioner, EPFO*, case be implemented in eight weeks. As many as 91,258 persons submitted their applications as on March 4. However, those who retired before September 1, 2014 without exercising the option under paragraph 11(3) of the EPS Rules would not be eligible to apply for higher pension, as this was what the Court had laid down in its latest verdict.

How will the pension be calculated?

The pensionable salary, which represents the average of the last 60 months of salary, will have to be multiplied by the number of contributory years, the sum of which is to be divided by 70, which indicates the average longevity for an Indian. For the purpose of pension, an employee, on attaining the age of 58 years, is deemed to have retired from service and consequently, exited the Pension Scheme, regardless of the retirement policy of the employer.

Will there be any financial impact?

In the event of the authorities clearing the applications for higher pension, the pensioners and the subscriber will have to remit to them the amount that represents the difference between the portion of PF contributions transferred earlier to the Pension Fund and what would have to be paid based on actual salary. In the case of the subscribers, a certain portion of the amount lying with their individual PF accounts may even get transferred to the Pension Fund, after their applications for higher pension get approved. As all the pensioners would have received their terminal benefits, they will be required to make their payment separately. In any case, the payment will include interest too, the rate of which will be indicated by the authorities later. Going by what is available on the portal, the entire payment will have to be made in a single tranche.

Employers will be required to bear the administrative charges, which are expected to be nominal.

What are the documents required?

The applicants will have to upload payslips and the communication of permission obtained under paragraph 26(6) of the EPF Scheme Rules to establish that their pay exceeded the salary cap of ₹5,000 a month (up to May 31, 2001) and ₹6,500 a month (up to August 31, 2014) and they were entitled to get the benefit of higher pension. Besides, they will have to furnish pages of their passbooks/account slips as proof of PF balance. In cases where there is nil or insufficient balance in PF accounts, an undertaking has to be provided by such members regarding the payment along with interest through their employers.

Should one opt for a higher pension?

The answer to this question varies from person to person. Higher pension may provide a sense of economic security after retirement. But the amount that a pensioner gets during his/her lifetime will get halved on his/her death and paid to the spouse. However, the amount that is lying with an employee's PF account will be paid totally to the employee's spouse in the event of his/her death during service.

THE GIST

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What are 'bio-computers' and how do they function?

What is the new area of research outlined by scientists at the John Hopkins university?

Surat Parvatam

The story so far:

Scientists at Johns Hopkins University (JHU) recently outlined a plan for a potentially revolutionary new area of research called "organoid intelligence", which aims to create "bio-computers". Here, brain cultures grown in the lab are coupled to real-world sensors and input/output devices. The scientists expect the technology to harness the processing power of the brain and understand the biological basis of human cognition, learning, and various neurological disorders.

What is the premise of this tech?

Understanding how the human brain works has been a difficult challenge. Traditionally, researchers have used rat brains to investigate various human neurological disorders. Now, in a quest to develop systems that are more relevant to humans, scientists are building 3D cultures of brain tissue in the lab, called brain organoids. These "mini-brains" (with a size of up to 4 mm) are built using human stem cells and capture many structural and functional features of a developing human brain. However, the human brain also requires various sensory inputs (touch, smell, vision, etc) to develop into the complex organ it is, and brain organoids developed in the lab aren't sophisticated enough. They also do not have blood circulation, which limits how they can grow.

Then, how do we study the brain?

Recently, scientists transplanted these human brain organoid cultures into rat brains, where they formed connections with the rat brain, which in turn provided circulating blood. Since the organoids had been transplanted to the visual system, when the scientists showed the experimental rats a light flash, the human neurons were activated, too, indicating that the human brain organoids were also functionally active. Scientists have touted such a system as a way to study brain diseases in a human context. However, human brain organoids are still nested in the rat-brain microenvironment. The effects of drugs in this model will have to be interpreted through various behavioural tests in rats, which could be insufficiently representative. Therefore, we need to address the limitations of lab-grown organoids and develop a more human-relevant system.

What is the new 'bio-computer'?

The JHU researchers' scheme will combine brain organoids with modern computing methods to create "bio-computers". They have announced plans to couple the organoids with machine learning by growing the organoids inside flexible structures affixed with multiple electrodes (similar to the ones used to take EEG readings from the brain). These structures will be able to record the firing patterns of the neurons and also deliver electrical stimuli, to mimic sensory stimuli. The response pattern of the neurons and their effect on human behaviour or biology will then be analysed by machine-learning techniques. Recently, scientists were able to grow human neurons on top of a microelectrode array that could both record and stimulate these neurons. Brain organoids can also be developed using stem cells from individuals with neurodegenerative or cognitive disorders. Comparing the data on brain structure, connections, and signalling between 'healthy' and 'patient-derived' organoids can reveal the biological basis of human cognition, learning, and memory.

Are 'bio-computers' ready for commercial use?

Currently, brain organoids have a diameter of less than 1 mm and have fewer than 1,00,000 cells (both on average), which make it roughly three-millionth the size of an actual human brain. So scaling up the brain organoid is key to improving its computing capacity. Thomas Hartung, a professor of evidence-based toxicology at JHU who is leading this work, said that "the challenge is now to establish long-term memory. We hope to achieve this within 1-2 years. Applying this to patient cell-derived brain organoids, like autism and Alzheimer donors, is already on the way. We might see benefits for drug development in this decade."

Surat Parvatam is senior research associate at the Atal Incubation Centre-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad.

THE GIST

- Scientists at Johns Hopkins University recently outlined a plan for a potentially revolutionary new area of research called "organoid intelligence", which aims to create "bio-computers".
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- The JHU researchers have announced plans to couple the organoids with machine learning by growing the organoids inside flexible structures affixed with multiple electrodes.

NHAI racing against time to finish pending works on expressway as inaugural date fast approaches

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to inaugurate the Bengaluru-Mysuru expressway on March 12 and the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party has pinned high hopes on the project helping it make inroads in the Old Mysore region

Suchith Kidiyoor
BENGALURU

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) is racing against time to complete pending works on the Bengaluru-Mysuru expressway, one of the high-profile projects that is all set to be inaugurated before the announcement of dates for the Karnataka Assembly elections.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to dedicate the project to the service of the nation on March 12. The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has pinned high hopes, on the project helping the party make inroads in the Old Mysore region.

"We are making our best efforts to complete pending works at some of the stretches on the main carriageway. The project could have already been completed. However, while executing the project, demands came for building additional underpasses by local road users and villagers, and we are accommodating the same. For example in Budanur, local people demanded a second underpass, and the same is the case in Induvalu area. A majority of the works have already been completed on the main carriageway. Only some works are pending and we are on the job of completing them before the inauguration."

In the first phase of the project, the NHAI opened main lanes of the expressway from Bengaluru to Nidaghatta. Though it had planned to collect the toll fee, it was deferred till March 14 citing "unavoidable reasons."

It is said that toll for using this stretch is likely to be collected after March 14, and for the rest of the stretch till Mysuru, it will be collected once the entire main carriage is ready.

New way: NHAI is constructing additional underpasses at Budanur and Induvalu as per the demand of local users. (Below) In the first phase of the project, the NHAI opened main lanes from Bengaluru to Nidaghatta. BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

Users of the expressway are happy with the fact that new infrastructure has reduced their travel time.

Raghavendra Prasad, who often travels to Mysuru, said: "This project has given relief to regular travellers between Bengaluru and Mysuru. Motorists are saving a lot of travel time as the expressway bypasses many towns. Once the missing links of the main carriageway are linked beyond Maddur, travel time will come down further."

As the NHAI proposed to collect toll for using six lanes of the main carriage, for a distance of 55 km from Bengaluru to Nidaghatta, demands have already come from various quarters to complete the construction of the service roads on the stretch, before the collection of toll.

Jayaprakash, a regular commuter from Wonder la Gate to Kengeri, said: "I use my bike to travel the distance. While coming from Bengaluru, near the toll gate, the construction of the service road is not yet completed. A good service road is required along the expressway for local users. The authorities should prioritise completion of the service road prior to collecting toll."

Near Doddamallur, the presence of the railway track has become a bottleneck for continuation of the service road.

Sashikumar, a villager, said: "The main lanes of the expressway have gone above the track. However, the link of the service road is cut off due to the presence of the railway track. At present, we are using village roads to reach further stretches of the service road of the expressway."

Villagers have demanded that proper signage boards should be installed wherever access was provided to the main lanes from the service roads.

The NHAI official said: "Between Bengaluru and Nidaghatta, as per the plan, service roads have been provided. Due to legal hurdles, service road works have stalled for a stretch of 100 metres near the Christ institute. Elsewhere, service roads have been provided."

Modi to hold roadshow in Mandya

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is scheduled to inaugurate the Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway at Gejjalagere on March 12, will also hold a roadshow in Mandya on the same day.

Deputy Commissioner of Mandya H.N. Gopalakrishna, who held a meeting of officials in the regard on Sunday, said Mr. Modi's road show will stretch for a distance of about 1.5 kms starting from Inspection Bungalow (IB) Circle and pass through Sanjay Circle before winding up at Nanda Circle.

Superintendent of Mandya district Police N. Yathish and other senior police officials accompanied Mr. Gopalakrishna during the inspection of the route. Apart from inauguration the newly expanded Expressway at Gejjalagere, Mr. Modi will also be addressing a public meeting at the venue and perform the ground-breaking ceremony of the Mysuru-Kushalnagar four-lane highway project. The inauguration of the expressway, public meeting and road show in Mandya district by Prime Minister Narendra Modi comes at a time when the BJP is wooing the electorate in the Vokkaliga-dominated Mandya district.

Last December, Union Home Minister Amit Shah also visited Mandya, where he held a public rally and inaugurated a mega dairy. Meanwhile, political circles were agog with speculation over Sumalatha Ambareesh, Mandya MP, joining the BJP. Ms. Sumalatha, who was present at a recent meeting of officials and people's representatives to chart out preparations for Mr. Modi's visit, also met former Chief Minister S.M. Krishna in Bengaluru on Saturday.

Chat with Karnataka School Exam and Assessment Board officials on March 7

#THTALKSBENGALURU

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

It is officially exam season. As the countdown to the II PU and class X board exams begins, #THTalksBengaluru provides students and parents with the opportunity of talking to officials from the Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board.

On March 7, Prasanna Kumar, senior assistant director (examination) for Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board, along with subject experts, will answer your questions as they participate in #THTalksBengaluru, a live chat with *The Hindu* and its readers from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.

They will answer a wide range of questions from examination phobia, exam preparations, concentration problems, to confusion in the subject.

You can send in your questions via mail (letters.bangalore@thehindu.co.in) or on Twitter handle (@THBengaluru) right away, apart from participating in the live chat on Tuesday.

NIA arrests another accused in Praveen Nettaru murder case

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

NIA officials on Saturday tracked down one of the absconding accused in the murder of BJP youth leader Praveen Nettaru, to Amruthahalli in the city, where he was living in a rented house for the past few months.

The accused, identified as Thufail M.H., according to the NIA, was part of the "service team (hit team)" which attacked and hacked Praveen to death last July 26.

Thufail, the NIA claimed, was the Kodagu district head of the PFI "hit team" and former PFI district secretary of Kodagu district.

According to the building owner, Nanjundappa, he lived alone and was not talking to anyone.

After pursuing and developing leads from various sources, a NIA team managed to track down the accused to his hideout in Amaruthahalli. A team posing as plumbers gained entry and pinned down Thufail, while he was preparing dinner.

According to an official release, Thufail was wanted in the murder of Praveen, BJP Yuva Morcha member, who was murdered, allegedly by PFI cadres, in July 2022, in Bellare village of Sullia taluk in Dakshina Kannada district.

This January, the NIA filed a chargesheet against 20 accused persons before the NIA special court, Bengaluru. The NIA had also announced a cash reward of ₹5 lakh for the absconding accused, including Thufail.

Thufail had allegedly played a significant role in the PFI's larger conspiracy to murder leaders of a particular community. He also allegedly provided shelter and safe harbor at Ashiyana residency of Koppa village, Mysuru district, to the three assailants who had killed Praveen.

Earlier, Thufail was accused in the murder of Prashanth Poojari, registered in Kushalnagar Rural PS, and attempt to murder case of VHP leader Ganesh.

Text & Context
A weekday feature on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carries explainers, special articles and a quiz. In the latest issue (March 6, Monday), the following explainer is available:

- A breakdown of the higher pension scheme **bit.ly/higherpensionscheme**

You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access this article. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access the article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.

READER'S MAIL

Ambulance sirens

Sir, – Though one recognises the need for ambulances to use its sirens, doing so also causes severe noise pollution for others and it calls for revisiting the 10-year-old National Ambulance Code on use of sirens by emergency vehicles.

As congestion on city roads has increased drastically in these 10 years, the continuous blaring of sirens emitting a sound of up to 120 dB – almost double the safe level – can cause permanent and irreversible hearing impairment, even if the exposure is for a brief period.

The whole issue needs fresh deliberations on how to balance both problems, maybe with the aid of technology.

KAMAL LADDHA
Bengaluru

Readers can email to letters.bangalore@thehindu.co.in

City to host Space Economy Leaders' Meet

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Department of Space will conduct the Space Economy Leaders' Meet (SELM) in Bengaluru, which will be a congregation of G20 Heads of Space Agencies and the Heads of G20 Space Industries.

SELM will be held on June 6 and 7. Under India's G20 presidency, the ISRO and the Department of Space is organising the fourth edition of SELM, to continue deliberations on the significance of space in shaping the global economy, ISRO said.

Two events

SELM has been planned with two events and a SELM-precursor event has been planned during April 17-18 at Shillong, Meghalaya.

The objective is to create awareness among the wider audience on the significance of the space economy. Ambassadors of G20 member states stationed in India will attend a roundtable meeting at Shillong during this event.

Space economy

The roundtable meeting will discuss the perspectives of the respective G20 countries on space economy. Following this, a session on policy perspectives of space economy is also planned, wherein there will be curated talks on specific aspects of space economy by think tanks and experts.

The Bengaluru SELM event will see the heads of national space agencies (HOA) of G20 countries once again assemble and continue their discussion. In addition to the HOA, there will be space industry leaders' session and other networking and bilateral meeting opportunities.

The theme for this years is SELM will be "Towards a New Space ERA (Economy, Responsibility, Alliance)"

Timings
BENGALURU

MONDAY, MAR. 06	
RISE 06:33	SET 18:29
RISE 17:43	SET 05:50
TUESDAY, MAR. 07	
RISE 06:32	SET 18:29
RISE 18:30	SET 06:27
WEDNESDAY, MAR. 08	
RISE 06:32	SET 18:29
RISE 19:17	SET 07:03

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	33	19
Mysuru	33	16
Bengaluru	32	19

Bengaluru Today
32°C The weather will be dry. Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be little warm. Night also will be cool and hazy.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
32°C A dry weather to continue. Day will belittle warm. Night will be slight cool with haze and mist.

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THE HINDU
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'Ensuring sustainable blue economy is essential'

Ashish Chaturvedi, Head, Environment, Energy and Resilience, UNDP India, says this will help achieve social and economic development goals of G20 countries

INTERVIEW

Ashish Chaturvedi

Hemanth C.S.

The G20 Environmental and Climate Sustainability Working Group meeting was recently held in Bengaluru. Land degradation, blue economy, and circular economy were three focal points of discussions. Ashish Chaturvedi, Head - Environment, Energy and Resilience, UNDP India, in an interview with *The Hindu* spoke on blue economy and its relevance to the G20 forum.

What is the blue economy? How is it different from the idea of the green economy?

The blue economy essentially corresponds to economic activities that rely on the use of coastal and marine resources. Like the concept of green economy, it advocates balanced and sustainable use of these resources to minimise negative impacts upon the marine environment.

The idea of the blue economy emerged as nations began to recognise the criticality of the ocean and its resources, and the growing threats to the marine environment from climate change, marine pollution, and overexploitation.

Different countries have contextualised the blue economy differently based on their priorities, with several nations having incorporated concepts of social equity, and climate change mitigation and adaptation in their approach.

Global estimates show that ocean-related economic activities contribute around $1.5 trillion to the global economy per year. This is expected to double to $3 trillion per year by 2030.

What is the relevance of blue economy to the G20 forum?

The concept blue economy is highly relevant to the G20 forum because all G20 countries are coastal States and rely heavily on ocean resources for livelihoods and economic growth. Together, they account for around 45% of the world's coastline and 21% of the world's exclusive economic zones.

Therefore, ensuring a sustainable blue economy is essential to achieve the social and economic development goals of G20 countries which will cascade into larger impacts upon the global economy.

What does the Indian presidency aim to achieve through the discussions on blue economy within G20? What are the key priorities for India?

The Indian presidency aims to build on the discussions that were conducted and the action plans that were adopted during previous G20 presidencies on ocean-related issues. For instance, marine litter has been a recurring theme in the G20 forum in recent years, in 2017 the G20 adopted a Marine Litter Action Plan under the German presidency and later in 2019 under the Japanese presidency an implementation framework on marine litter was adopted. Building on this momentum, India has identified marine litter as a key priority under the broader ambit of blue economy. Additionally, India has identified conservation and restoration of coastal and marine ecosystems and Marine Spatial Planning as key priorities.

What is the role of UNDP and other organisations in facilitating the discussions and subsequent action on the blue economy within the G20?

The G20 comprises a diverse group of countries with varying national circumstances. They are also at different stages in their transition towards the blue economy. UNDP is working in almost all these countries to address conservation as well as economic issues around blue economy, and is creating platforms to encourage sub-national, regional and global discourses on pathways towards a sustainable blue economy. UNDP is also working on the ground to ensure climate adaptation for communities dependent upon the blue economy. In India for instance, we are working in Odisha, Maharashtra, and Andhra Pradesh to enhance climate resilience of coastal communities through enhanced livelihoods, disaster preparedness and biodiversity conservation.

CACHE

Trouble ahead: The Twitter headquarters in downtown San Francisco. GETTY IMAGES

What does the unavailability of Twitter's Slack say about the company's health?

How will the lack of a communication tool like Slack affect the functioning of a large tech platform like Twitter? What are the main theories behind the inaccessibility of Slack? Why is the social media intermediary under fire in the EU?

Sahana Venugopal

The story so far:

While companies cannot function safely without enterprise-grade communication tools, a vast Big Tech company like Twitter whose offices and employees are scattered across the world are extra dependent on their messaging services and resource hubs. However, Slack, the communication solution used by Twitter employees has gone down, triggering chaos across departments.

What happened to Twitter's Slack?

In the penultimate week of February, Twitter's staff was reportedly told that their company's Slack instance was under "routine maintenance" and couldn't be used, according to tech outlet *The Platformer*. However, a Slack employee who spoke to the outlet denied this allegation. Slack was down on February 22 and 23, prompting some employees to even take time off as they couldn't complete their deliverables.

There were two major theories that could explain why Slack was down. First, some employees believed that Slack was inaccessible because it hadn't been paid for.

Twitter offices in Singapore, the U. K., and even the U.S. have faced alleged rent issues under CEO Elon Musk's leadership, so it is possible that Slack also went down due to non-payment of its outstanding bills.

Second, *The Platformer* reported that Slack may have been deliberately turned off to see if Twitter's remaining employees could handle daily operations using less expensive tools. The outlet reported that Tesla uses a solution called Mattermost, as well as Microsoft Outlook and Teams.

What could this mean for Twitter?

Slack is an enterprise-grade communication tool that allows employees all over the world to instantly communicate with others, take part in group chats, share media, create channels to streamline projects or teams, facilitate meetings, and easily locate resources through a secure and centralised portal.

As more and more Twitter workers across the world – such as employees in the now closed Delhi and Mumbai offices – were instructed to work from home, remote working tools like Slack are to likely become the workers' critical link to their teams. Losing it would not only affect their productivity, but also their confidence in a company that has been on a turbulent journey since the $44 billion takeover in October 2022. The interrupted functioning of communication services such as the company's Slack could also affect Twitter's ability to respond to emergencies, such as the then-ongoing earthquake relief efforts in Turkey and Syria.

Furthermore, news of Twitter's Slack going down came days before the *New York Times* announced over the weekend that the social media company was firing at least 200 employees – roughly 10% of its workforce – to possibly cut costs yet again. With more re-assigned work and employee departures, Slack and other company communications tools are needed for the remaining workers to coordinate their efforts.

The Platformer cited an employee anonymously venting about their job on the Blind app, who said that Slack histories helped them solve their queries after other employees resigned or were fired following Mr. Musk's takeover.

How does this disrupt their work?

Without Slack, some employees reportedly decided to take the day off while others tried resorting to email in order to reach their colleagues. Another Twitter tool, Jira, which helps staff manage the service, also stopped functioning for a day and this further added to employees' confusion and panic. However, Jira later began working again.

Slack came down around the time that Mr. Musk promised that Twitter would make its algorithm open source in the final week of February. On February 22, Mr. Musk tweeted that the algorithm would at first disappoint users but that it would improve rapidly. Naturally, the burden of delivering on this promise fell to Twitter's engineers – who were at the time probably struggling to figure out what was wrong with their Slack account.

In past weeks, Mr. Musk has also revealed plans to monetise Twitter features, such as verified checkmarks for organisations and the previously free API.

Twitter has also garnered the ire of the EU over its inadequate report on fighting disinformation. An official said that Twitter's report lagged behind other tech platforms, especially during Russia's invasion and its "full-blown disinformation war." Apart from this, Twitter has seen several outages across the world in the past three months. All in all, Twitter's Slack woes come at a time when there is an extra high demand for the company to run a stable communication service infrastructure for its rapidly shrinking workforce.

Is Twitter's Slack back?

Not exactly. Citing an internal company email, Zoe Schiffer of *The Platformer* reported on Tuesday that Twitter would be bringing back the company Slack, but that it was archiving old channels in order to ease the burden on the support team.

According to the email, Twitter reportedly had over 88,000 Slack channels. Tech outlet *The Verge* reported on Monday that Mr. Musk also shut off access to employees' Google Chat around the time of the latest layoffs at the company.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

In the midst of a spin bowling-dominant Border Gavaskar trophy, a quiz on spin bowlers

Srinivasan Ramani

QUESTION 1

Nearly 40 years before Anil Kumble returned 10/74 against Pakistan to break the record for the most wickets by an Indian in one innings, this gentleman made the record against Australia in a Test held in Kanpur by bagging 9/69 in the first innings. Name him.

QUESTION 2

Apart from being wicketkeepers, what (dubious) distinction do Mark Boucher, Alec Stewart and Adam Gilchrist share as batsmen against spin bowling? Hint: The highest wicket taking spinners in Test cricket

QUESTION 3

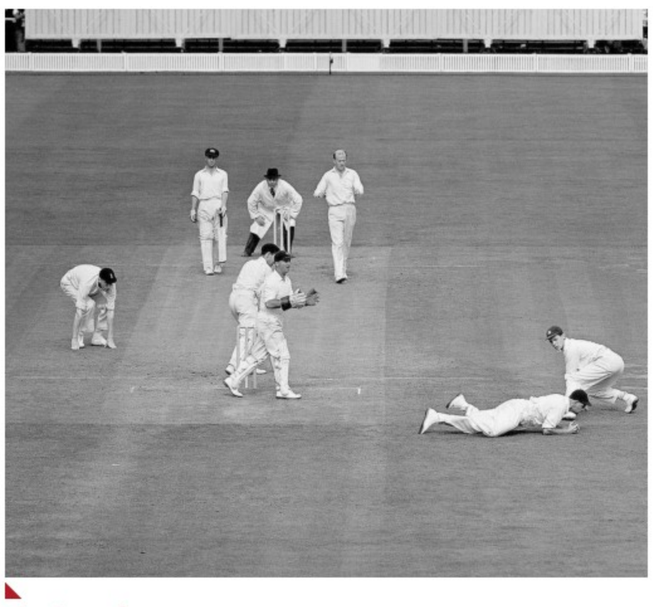
Way before Sri Lankan Ajantha Mendis bamboozled batsmen with his unorthodox carrom-ball before fizzling out as a flash in the pan, this Australian was widely held to have been the pioneer of this delivery. He barely played five Tests in the early 1950s and ended up with an impressive average of 15.23 for 21 wickets. Name him.

QUESTION 4

Two batsmen share the record of having been dismissed the most by R. Ashwin. While David Warner has been Ashwin's victim 11 times in 17 Tests, the other batsman shares that distinction in just 12 matches. Name him.

QUESTION 5

This cricketer made his debut as a left arm orthodox bowler and batted number nine in his first Test. In the Test, he had returns of 4/75 and 0/6 respectively. Later, he added more weapons to his bowling — the left armer's googly, pace bowling and ended up with 235 wickets at an average of 34.03. But he also held a batting record for 36 years, broken by his "countryman". Name the cricketer and the record.



Visual question:
What is the significance of this wicket (the only one picked by the bowler in the Test match). Name the bowler. GETTY IMAGES

Questions and Answers to the March 3 edition of the daily quiz: 1. The logo of CITES is a representation of this herbivore. **Ans: Elephant**
2. This Asian nation mooted the idea of the World Wildlife Day. **Ans: Thailand**
3. This organisation publishes the Red List of Threatened Species. **Ans: IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature)**
4. The Giant Atlas barbel is this type of species. **Ans: Fish**
5. China has full ownership of this species. **Ans: Giant Panda**
6. The claim to fame of 'Hyperion' located in California. **Ans: It is considered the world's tallest known living tree**
Visual: The theme for this year's WWD. **Ans: Partnerships for Wildlife Conservation**
Early Birds: Shukra Nourin| Arnasree Chakraborty| Dhiraj Singh Rawat| Gauri Bali| Vivek Khaiwal Laprana

KNOW YOUR ENGLISH

He stole my heart with his dulcet tones!

He is a man of selfless moral rectitude and is not the type to fish in troubled waters

S. Upendran

What is the origin of 'fish in troubled waters'? (Anu Mittal, Gurugram)

When you fish in troubled waters, you are attempting to take advantage of an individual's misfortune. 'Troubled waters' suggests that there is chaos and confusion all around; no one is really sure how to deal with the difficult situation. You take advantage of this confusion and try to gain something for yourself.

We know you're not here to help. You're here to fish in troubled waters.

This expression has been around for nearly five hundred years. In the past, people believed that the best time to fish was when the sea was rough. The general belief was, when the weather was bad, fish came to the surface; thus, making them easier to catch.

What is the meaning of 'rectitude'? (K. Abhilasha, Dehradun)

First, let us deal with the pronunciation of this rather formal word. The first syllable rhymes with 'peck', 'neck' and 'check', while the vowel in the second, sounds like the 'i' in 'tip', 'sip' and 'dip'. The 'tu' in the final syllable sounds like the 'tu' in 'tune', 'tumour' and 'tutor'. One way of pronouncing the word is 'RECK-ti-tyood', with the stress on the first syllable. It comes from the Latin 'rectus' meaning 'straight' or 'right'. Nowadays, the word is mostly used to refer to a person's character. When you say that an individual is a model of rectitude, what you are suggesting is that he is honest, straightforward, and thinks and behaves in a way that is morally acceptable.

Don't be fooled by his easy-going attitude. He's a man of steely rectitude.

What is the difference between 'rob' and 'steal'? (Chandra Gopalan, New Jersey)

In both cases, you are taking something that does not belong to you. When a pickpocket 'steals' your wallet, you are usually not even aware of it. You realise that you have lost something much later. There are times when you don't even realise that you have lost something. This probably explains why when you lose your heart to someone, you say 'She/He stole my heart!' It is also possible for one to steal money, objects and even ideas. Whenever a thief steals something, he tries not to attract attention to himself; there is no threat of violence of any kind. This, however, is not true in the case of a robbery; you will know when you are being robbed. You will come face to face with the person robbing you. He may be carrying a gun or a knife, and threaten you with dire consequences if you do not hand over the wallet or whatever it is he wants. He may even beat you up should you resist handing over the wallet.

During the party, someone stole Anita's gold chain.

Ganesh was robbed at gunpoint last night.

upendrankye@gmail.com

Word of the day

Presage:
foreboding about what is about to happen; a sign of something about to happen

Synonyms: prodigy, omen, portent, prognostic

Usage: *The current economic conditions could presage a recession.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/presagepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈpresɪdʒ/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Minor boy killed in LPG cylinder explosion at 'illegal' refilling unit

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 13-year-old boy was killed in an LPG cylinder explosion that occurred at an "illegal" refilling shop at Guddadahalli in Hebbal on Sunday morning.

The deceased has been identified as Mahesh, a Class VI student of a government school.

Mahesh was the son of Mallappa and Saraswathi, who hailed from Yadgir district and stayed in the city for a couple of years working as daily wage labourers. The couple have three children and Mahesh was their second child.

Mahesh was a Class VI student of a government school.

Since it was a holiday, Mahesh ventured out of the house and while playing, came near the shop, where employee Liyakhath was refilling a cylinder illegally without any safety measures, said the police.

According to the police, there was a gas leak, which caused an explosion. Mahesh, who was standing close by, was thrown up in the air and sustained multiple injuries. Passers-by rushed to his help and took him to a nearby hospital, where he died.

The accused Liyakath fled from the spot after the accident. The police have registered a case of death due to negligence and also under various sections of the Liquefied Petroleum Gas (Regulation of Supply and Distribution) Act for further investigation.

There was panic in the area for sometime as the sound rattled windows and doors. No other people were injured in the accident, a police officer said.

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Seized vehicles destroyed

The vehicles that were destroyed at Kodigehalli.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As many as 40 vehicles seized by the Kodigehalli police and parked in the yard behind the station were destroyed in an accidental fire that broke out, owing to suspected electrical short circuit on Friday afternoon.

The fire broke out at around 1.30 p.m. and as the flames engulfed the parking yard, the staff shifted the other vehicles to safety, and alerted the control room.

A probe revealed that the a cable suspended from the transformer situated close to the parking lot caused the fire.

A spark from the cable led to some nearby waste catching fire and it soon spread to the vehicles in the yard, a senior police officer said.

Dr. Sathya Ranna's
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21-year-old man arrested on charge of bike theft, seven two-wheelers recovered

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Byatarayanapura police on Sunday arrested a 21-year-old man and recovered seven two-wheelers worth ₹4.3 lakh, which he had allegedly stolen from in and around the city.

The accused has been identified as Mujeeb Pasha, a resident of Goripalya.

According to the police, the accused used to move around residential areas and steal two-wheelers parked outside houses.

Based on bike theft complaints, the police analysed details and CCTV camera footage from in and around the scene of crime, identified the accused, and arrested him.

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Build cyber warriors

Educational institutions need to cultivate a cybersecurity mindset in students, both in schools and colleges

GETTY IMAGES/ ISTOCKPHOTO

J. Kesavardhanan

Many of us are digital natives, and our children are innately digital. They may not be born with a device in hand, but find themselves in front of a screen from an early age. The preliminary stage of education is steered through technology, where children learn their ABCs and calculus by utilising devices and apps in school.

Moreover, the epidemic has shown us how quickly we can adapt and thrive in a digital-first world. But the question is: is this safe? If it isn't, how do we make it safe?

To answer the first question, no, it isn't safe. Children are smart, inquisitive, and just as keen to explore the digital world as the physical one. But the digital world has fewer safeguards. In the physical world, we do not need to worry that an adult on another continent can pretend to be a child and talk to our children. But this is a well-founded worry in the digital space.

Dangers of cyberspace

Digital addiction and online bullying can have adverse and even life-threatening impacts on children. If this is the world our children are growing up in, what will it be like when they become adults and work and play in some form of a metaverse?

These are serious issues that need to be addressed and efforts are already underway to educate children on the dangers of cyberspace. Though well-intentioned, these are not very effective because they treat cybersecurity like any other subject that is taught in school. And with similar results: children are bored and incentivised to focus on marks rather than applying the knowledge.

Also, whatever they learn is theoretical and far removed from reality. This may not be a big problem with other subjects but not so with cybersecurity. Children need to be cyber secure every day of their childhood and need to practise cyber hygiene as soon as they can use a computer or phone without adult assistance.

The textbook-homework- exam model should be strictly avoided in favour of engaging content, interactive presentations, and gamification of lessons.

Two-stage solution

We need something better than the modern equivalent of a chalk-and-talk lecture to help them acquire these skills.

The solution requires a two-stage approach: Stage One is the formation of an advisory council of cybersecurity and education experts, as well as professionals from other disciplines, who will act as an apex body that frames appropriate school cybersecurity policies for real-world impact; establish what cybersecurity measures should be taught and how they should be taught; provide advice on cybersecurity technology and proactive updates on threat trends, and facilitate the creation of counselling/grievance redressal processes that will give children a reliable and comforting authority they can turn to when they encounter online bullying or have other concerns regarding online behaviour that they cannot discuss with the other adults they know.

Stage Two involves the creation and delivery of cybersecurity awareness programmes that will cater to young minds based on guidance from the advisory council. The textbook-homework-exam model should be strictly avoided in favour of engaging content, interactive presentations, and gamification of lessons.

Cybersecurity should be glamorised the way movies glamourise superheroes saving the world from destruction; it should be presented as something noble and valiant and not a chore that ruins all the fun of having a computing device.

It may be possible for a well-resourced school to implement these stages by itself but, realistically, this will require government, academia, and industry to come together to secure the next generation.

The effort will be justified as the outcome will be more than just safer children.

A study by ISC2 reveals a worldwide shortage of 3.4 million cybersecurity professionals. Cultivating a cybersecurity mindset in children will help them access lucrative cybersecurity careers and the nation benefits from a highly skilled workforce.

The writer is Founder and President, K7 Computing

SCHOLARSHIPS

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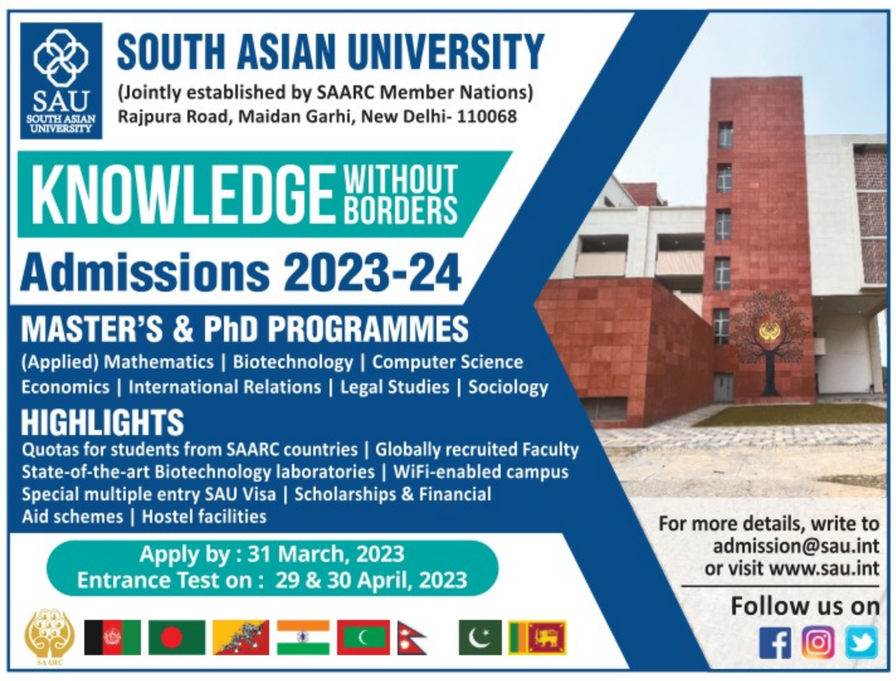
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Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited

(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION

(e-procurement mode only)

No. CEE/TZB/SEE(O)/AE-1/2022-23/24769-71 Date: 04.03.2023

KPTCL invites bids against the Enquiry No: **KPTCL/CEE/TR/BZ/PTK-224** for Providing **additional 1x8MVA, 66/11kV Power transformer at 66/11kV Bommepalli Cross Sub-station** in Chintamani Taluk Chikkaballapura District including supply of all materials / Equipment **(Excluding Power Transformer & 11kV Switchgear)** and erection (including Civil works) of all materials/equipments, testing and commissioning on **Partial Turnkey Basis.**

The Bids will be received through electronic tender mode only. The detailed notification regarding the subject enquiry in the e-tendering process can be obtained by logging into **e-procurement** Website: **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **07.03.2023.** Other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Chief Engineer, Electy, Transmission Zone, KPTCL, A.R.Circle, Bengaluru - 560 009.

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No.:903/SEE/Tr(W&M)/EE(E)/AEE-3/22-23/CYS-75 Date: 04.03.2023

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through e-Procurement mode only)

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited invites Tender for the following works.

1) Bid Enquiry No: KPTCL/2022-23/IND2361 Tender for supplying of **HV/IV Bushing** suitable for NGEF & Bharar Bijilee 100MVA, 220/110kV, Power Transformer required at 220kV R/s Bidnal and 220kV R/s Ambewadi respectively coming under Transmission (W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Hubballi.

2) Bid Enquiry No: KPTCL/2021-22/IND2079/CALL-4 for Supply of 32 Nos. of 50Kgs Suplher Hexa-Flouride (SF-6) Gas Cylinders.

The detailed notification regarding the subject enquiry in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** on hyperlink **"e-Procurement-KPTCL"** or directly logging on to website https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in/on or after **06.03.2023.** Other details can be obtained from the office of the under signed.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Elecl.), Transmission (W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Vidyuthnagar, Hubballi-24

Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Department

Office of The Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Department, Chickballapur Division, Chickballapur. Ph: 08156-270058
E-mail ID: **eerdwsd.ckb2@gmail.com**

No:EE/RDW&SD/CBP/AE-2/2022-23 Date: 24.02.2023

Tender Notification No.: 52/2022-23
Date: 24.02.2023

Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Chickballapur, On behalf of Governor of Karnataka Invites request for proposal of tenders from the eligible bidders for the work of Providing FHTC"s to 47 Villages in Shidlaghatta Taluk, Chickballapur District. One & Two Cover tender procedure as per rule 28 of the KTPP act shall be followed. The tenderers are required to submit **(Under KW-II, KW-III & KW-IV)** tenders through e-procurement through portal **http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in.**

(1) Last Date & Time for Receipt of Bids: **06.03.2023 Time: 5.30 PM. (2)** Date & Time of Technical Bid Opening: **08.03.2023 Time: 4.30 PM.** (3) Date & Time of Financial Bid Opening: **10.03.2023 Time: 11.00 AM.**

More details can be had from the office of the undersigned and also through **http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** by clicking List of Tenders which will link to all Dept. works list.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, RDW&S Department, Chickballapur

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ/ಆರ್.ಓ.ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ549/ಎಂ.ಸಿ.ಎ/2022–23

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Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Department

Office of The Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Department, Chickballapur Division, Chickballapur. Ph: 08156-270058
E-mail ID: **eerdwsd.ckb2@gmail.com**

No:EE/RDW&SD/CBP/AE-2/2022-23 Date: 24.02.2023

Tender Notification No.: 53/2022-23
Date: 24.02.2023

Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Chickballapur, On behalf of Governor of Karnataka Invites request for proposal of tenders from the eligible bidders for the work of Providing FHTC"s to 79 Villages in Chinthamani Taluk, Chickballapur District. One & Two Cover tender procedure as per rule 28 of the KTPP act shall be followed. The tenderers are required to submit **(Under KW-I, KW-II & KW-III)** tenders through e-procurement through portal **http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in.**

(1) Last Date & Time for Receipt of Bids: **06.03.2023 Time: 5.30 PM. (2)** Date & Time of Technical Bid Opening: **08.03.2023 Time: 11.00 AM.** (3) Date & Time of Financial Bid Opening: **10.03.2023 Time: 11.00 AM.**

More details can be had from the office of the undersigned and also through **http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** by clicking List of Tenders which will link to all Dept. works list.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, RDW&S Department, Chickballapur

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ/ಆರ್.ಓ.ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ546/ಎಂ.ಸಿ.ಎ/2022–23

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(Govt of Karnataka)

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER P.W.D DIVISION SEDAM

No. EE/PWD/SD/TS-1/Tender Notification/2022-23 Date : 03-03-2023

-:: CORRIGENDUM ::-

Ref : 1) This office tender Notification No 4395, Dated : 28-02-2023

With reference to the above subject, The tender called for the works from **Sedam taluka 166399** are extended as follows.

1) Pre-Bid Meeting : **10-03-2023 (11.00 Hrs),** 2) Last date & time for Tender Queries & receipt of tenders : **13-03-2023 (17.30 Hrs),** 3) Last date for Submission of bid : **14-03-2023 (16.00 Hrs),** 4) Date of Opening of Technical Bid : **15-03-2023 (16.30 Hrs),** 5) Date of opening of Financial Bid : **17-03-2023 (11.30 Hrs).**

Any Changes and cancelations are done in **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, P.W.D Division Sedam

DIPR/Kalaburagi/1423/MC&A/2022-23

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, M.I. & G.W.D. DIVISION, KALABURAGI

www.midnglb@rediffmail.com, Phone : 08472 -220196

IFT No. EE/MI &GWD D/KAL/PB-3/2022-23/ 5070 DATED : 03-03-2023

-: SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (IFT KW-4) :-

1) Detail of work: THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, M.I. & G.W.D. DIVISION, KALABURAGI INVITES TENDER FROM THE ELIGIBLE TENDERERS FOR 4702 S.C.P, 4702 A.P.B. FOR THE YEAR 2022-23 & FLOOD DAMAGE WORKS FOR THE YEAR 2022-23, 2) Amount of Estimate : **Max. Rs. 255,11,165.96 Min. Rs. 126,90,073.76**, 3) Eligibility of Contractor: Class-1, 4) Details of Tender application amount and EMD amount: Tender Fee As per e-portal E.M.D. Max. Rs. 3,83,000.00 Min . Rs. 2,00,000.00, 5) Last Date & Time for Tender Queries/ Clarifications: **10-03-2023 Upto 11.00 Hours,** 6) Last Date & Time for receipt of tenders : **13-03-2023 Up to 17.30 Hours,** 7) Date & Time for Opening of Technical Bid: **14-03-2023 Up to 17.30 Hours**, 8) Date & Time for Opening of Financial Bid : **15-03-2023 Up to 17.30 Hours,** 9) Addl. information: Executive Engineer, M.I. & G.W.D. Division, Kalaburagi, 10) Address of E-Portal.: **www.e-proc.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Minor Irrigation & Ground Water Development Division, Kalaburagi

DIPR/Kalaburagi/1422/MC&A/2022-23

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

[Zilla Panchayath Kalaburagi]

DISTRICT BACKWARD CLASSES WELFARE DEPARTMENT KALABURAGI

Tarfile 8th Cross, Near Dankin Bhavi, GDA Layout, Ambika Nagar Backside, D. Devaraj Urs Bhavan, Kalaburagi-585102, Ph.: 9148489157, Email:dobcmgulbarga@gmail.com

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂ:ಹಿಂವಕ'ಇಕ: ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿ:ಸಿಆರ್:01:2023–24 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 04.03.2023

SHORT TERM E-TENDER

1) Short Term E-Procurement (www.eprockarnatakagovin) E-Tender Called by Kalaburagi District Backward Classes Welfare Department, within the scope of the Morarji Desai Residential Schools and Hostels. Total vacancy's are 378 Group "D" & computer operator Posts on temporary Basis service through Out source Agency for the academic year 2023-24, 2) Total amount of the E - Tender : **Rs 478.93 lakhs,** 3) E.M.D Amount for the Tender : Rs 11.97 lakhs, 4) Price for E - Tender Form : As E – Procurement, 5) Application Date of E - Tender : **Date : 06.03.2023 to 05.04.2023,** 6) Last date for E-Tender application submission : **Date : 05.04.2023 At : 5.30 pm**, 7) Pre - Bid Meeting Date : Date : **15.03.2023 At. 11-00 am**, 8) Place and date for technical bid : Location : District office, Backward Classes Welfare department Kalaburagi **Date : 06.04.2023 At : 11-00 AM,** 9) Place and date for financial bid: Location : - District office, Backward Classes Welfare department Kalaburagi Date : **10.04.2023 At : 11-00 am,** 10) For more information contact this office address, and telephone number : District officer, Backward Classes Welfare Department Kalaburagi and member Secretary of Tender Committee Kalaburagi , Phone number : 9148489157

Sd/- District officer,
Backward Classes Welfare Department Kalaburagi

DIPR/Kalaburagi/1419/MC&A/2022-23

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER (Only Through e-procurement Portal)

BWSSB invites Tenders from Registered Agencies for the following works.

Office of the Chief Engineer (K-O&M), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bengaluru-560009.

Sl No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount put to tender EMD (In Rs.)		Last date & time for Submission of Tender	Date & time for Opening of Tender
1	Kaveri (O&M-2)	BWSSB/EE(K-O&M)-2/PB/2998/ 2022-23 Date: 28.02.2023	Rs. 47,29,000/-	Rs. 1,12,000/-	18.03.2023 upto 4.00 pm	20.03.2023 after 4.00 pm
2		BWSSB/EE(K-O&M)-2/PB/3002/ 2022-23 Date: 28.02.2023	Rs. 46,54,000/-	Rs. 93,100/-	22.03.2023 upto 4.00 pm	24.03.2023 after 4.00 pm
3		BWSSB/EE(K-O&M)-2/PB/2977/ 2022-23 Date: 24.02.2023	Rs. 15,53,100/-	Rs. 37,000/-	15.03.2023 upto 4.00 pm	17.03.2023 after 4.00 pm
4		BWSSB/EE(K-O&M)-2/PB/2979/ 2022-23 Date: 24.02.2023	Rs. 63,49,000/-	Rs. 1,50,000/-		
5		BWSSB/EE(K-O&M)-2/PB/3000/ 2022-23 Date: 28.02.2023	Rs. 45,72,000/-	Rs. 91,500/-	20.03.2023 upto 4.00 pm	23.03.2023 after 4.00 pm

Sd/- Executive Engineer (K-O&M)-2

Office of the Chief Engineer (West), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bengaluru-560009.

6	North West-1	BWSSB/EE(NW-1)/PB/3795 /2022-23 Date: 03.03.2023	1	Rs. 22,47,178/-	19.03.2023 upto 5.30 pm	21.03.2023 after 3.00 pm
				Rs. 50,000/-		
7			2	Rs. 51,48,850/-		
				Rs. 1,03,000/-		
8		BWSSB/EE(NW-1)/PB/3795 /2022-23 Date: 03.03.2023 **(Reserved For SC Category)**	3	Rs. 14,28,784/-		
				Rs. 17,900/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer (North West-1)

Office of the Chief Engineer (East), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bengaluru-560009.

9	East-1	BWSSB/EE(East-1)/PB/2676 /2022-23 Date: 02.03.2023 **(3rd Call)**	Rs. 22,91,499/- Rs. 50,000/-	20.03.2023 upto 4.00 pm	21.03.2023 after 5.00 pm

Sd/- Executive Engineer (East-1)

Office of the Chief Engineer (South), 7th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bengaluru-560009.

10	South West-2	BWSSB/EESW-2/TO/PB/1688/ 2022-23 Date: 02.03.2023	Rs. 36,28,515/- Rs. 72,600/-	14.03.2023 upto 4.00 pm	16.03.2023 after 3.00 pm

Sd/- Executive Engineer (South West-2)

Office of the Chief Engineer (Design & QA), 9th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bengaluru-560009.

11	Design -Civil & Buidling Mainte -nance	BWSSB/EE(DC&BM)/PB/3798/ 2022-23 Date: 01.03.2023	Rs. 79,16,837/-	Rs. 1,58,337/-	13.03.2023 upto 4.00 pm	14.03.2023 after 4.01 pm
12		BWSSB/EE(DC&BM)/PB/3796/ 2022-23 Date: 01.03.2023	Rs. 75,55,622/-	Rs. 1,51,113/-		
13		BWSSB/EE(DC&BM)/PB/3794/ 2022-23 Date: 01.03.2023	Rs. 58,99,671/-	Rs. 1,17,993/-		
14		BWSSB/EE(DC&BM)/PB/3792/ 2022-23 Date: 01.03.2023	Rs. 58,99,671/-	Rs. 1,17,993/-		
15		BWSSB/EE(DC&BM)/PB/3790/ 2022-23 Date: 01.03.2023	Rs. 58,99,671/-	Rs. 1,17,993/-		
16		BWSSB/EE(DC&BM)/PB/3788/ 2022-23 Date: 01.03.2023	Rs. 58,99,671/-	Rs. 1,17,993/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer (DC & BM)

17	MIS	BWSSB/EMS/TE/PB/AE/412/ 2022-23 Date: 04.03.2023 **Reserved For ST Category (2nd Call)**	Rs. 22,84,802/- Rs. 25,000/-	14.03.2023 upto 4.00 pm	16.03.2023 at 5.00 pm

Sd/- Executive Engineer (MIS)

The Details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the above signed office during working hours. DIPR/CP/5082/Zen/2022-23

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LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF 28th ADDJ. CITY CIVIL JUDGE, MAYO HALL AT BANGALORE (CCH-29) O.S. NO. 25149/2022

Between :
M/s. ICICI BANK LIMITED Mittal Tower, M.G. Road Bangalore- 560001 Represented by its officer of Power of Attorney Holder Mr. Rohith Ali M., Aged about 23 years, S/o Mr. Ishrath Ali. M.
AND
Mr. SRINIVAS S/o. Mr. Obulu Aged about 29 years, 1, Devappa Layout, Ramachandrapura, Bangalore South, Jalahalli, Bangalore- 560013

Summons To Defendant

Whereas, the above named Plaintiff has filed a Civil Suit for Recovery of a sum of **Rs.7,86,117.59/- (Rupees Seven Lakhs Eighty Six Thousand One Hundred Seventeen and paisa Fifty Nine Only)** apart from future interest of 15.75% p.a., in **O.S. No. 25149/2022** and same is pending adjudication in **CCH-29,** Before Addl. City Civil Court, Mayohall, Bengaluru.

You are hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble Court on the 12th day of 04, 2023 at 11 A.M. to answer to the same, if failed the suit will be decided in your absence, Exparte.

Given under my Hand and Seal of the Court this the 22th dat of 02, 2023

By Order of the Court
Deputy Registrar,
City Civil Court, Mayohall, Bengaluru- 560001

FX & CO., ADVOCATES
New No. 9, Old No.11/1 Gover Road, Cox Town, BENGALURU- 560 005.

IN THE COURT OF THE 73rd ADDL. CITY CIVIL JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH-74)
ORIGINAL SUIT NO. 25422 OF 2022

BETWEEN
ICICI Bank Ltd. ...Plaintiff
AND
Kotra Gowda A Chikka Gowda ...Defendant

Summons/ Notice through Paper Publication

Defendant
MR. KOTRAGOWDA A CHIKKAGOWDRU.
Aged about 38 years, S/o. Rajashekar Gowda, R/at. C 249, 3rd Main, 12th Cross, Mahalakshmi Layout, Banagalore North, Bangalore- 560 086.
...DEFENDANT

WHEREAS the above named Plaintiff has instituted case against you for recovery loan amount of **10,64,959/-** together with interest at the rate 24% p.a. from date of due to till the date of realization.

You are hereby summoned to appear before this Hon'ble Court in person **10th April, 2023** at **11:00 A.M.** to answer the questions of the same. Failing which the matter will be heard and determined as **"EX-PARTE".**

Given under my hand and seal of the Court on this **24th day of February, 2023.**

By Order of the Court
Deputy Registrar
City Civil Court
Mayohall Unit Bangalore

Advocate for Plaintiff
Mr. K.N. Arvinda Navada
Advocate
No.177/1, (88), 1st Floor, Besides 12th Cross, Cubbonpet Main Road, Bengaluru- 560 002.

IN THE COURT OF 26 ADDL., CITY CIVIL AND SESSION JUDGE, MAYOHALL, AT BANGALORE CCH : 20

O.S. No. 25481 / 2019

BETWEEN :
ICICI Bank Ltd., ...Plaintiff
And
Mr. Suresh Chitikela ...Defendant

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT

Mr. Suresh Chitikela S/o Mrs. Achiyamma Chitikela, Aged about 39 years, Residing at No. 944, 3rd Main, C Block, AECS Layout, Kundanahalli, Bangalore- 560037.

Whereas, the Plaint is filed by the Plaintiff Bank, against the Defendant seeking Judgment and Decree for recovery of loan amount of Rs.4,51,863.50/- (Rupees Four Lakhs Fifty One Thousand Eight Hundred Sixty Three and Paise Fifty Only) together with interest at the rate of 21% P.A. from the date of filing of the suit to till the date of decree.

Hence, the Defendant hereby gave this notice to appear before the 26th Addl., City Civil and Session Judge, Mayohall at Bangalore Court (CCH : 20) on 17/04/2023 At 11:AM either personally or through his Counsel to answer to the Plaint failing which, the case will be heard and decided ex- parte.

Given under my hand and the seal of the court this the 27th day of February, 2023.

By order of the Court,
Deputy Registrar
City Civil Court Mayohall (Unit), Bangalore

Plaintiff Counsel
M.G.C. & Co.,
Advocate and Solicitors,
No 66, 4th Cross, Xavier Layout,
Bangalore-560047.

IN THE COURT OF DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-2, B.S.N.L. BUILDING, 4TH FLOOR, TELEPHONE HOUSE, RAJBHAVAN ROAD, BENGALURU-560 001
O.A. NO. 768/2022

BETWEEN :
ICICI Bank Ltd. ...APPLICANT
AND
SRI. BABULAL ...DEFENDANT

To,
SRI. BABULAL, S/O. SRI.TUHARAJI, AGED ABOUT 47 YEARS, NO. 5/1, 2ND FLOOR, 3RD CROSS, M M LANE, COTTONPET, BANGALORE SOUTH, NEAR PREMA BAR, BANGALORE-560 053
MAIL ID- blpurohi589@gmail.com
MOBILE NO. 9449464495
ALSO AT :
SRI. BABULAL, NO. 236, PROHITHA KAVAS, OTWLAL, JALUR, SAYAL TALUK, NEAR JAIN TEMPLE, JALUR, RAJASHAN- 9449464495
AND ALSO AT :
BHAVANA DISTRIBUTORS, NO. 270, M M PREMIER, 2ND MAIN, OLD THARAGUPET, BANGLAORE URBAN, BANGLAORE- 560053

SUMMONS ISSUED TO DEFENDANT UNDER RULE 23(VIII) OF DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES OF 1993 BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION

WHEREAS : the applicant has instituted an application under section 19 of Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993, against the above defendant for the recovery of Sum of **Rs. 20,18,257/- (Rupees Twenty Lakhs Eighteen Thousand Two Hundred and Fifty Seven Rupees Only)** amount together with current and future interest, cost and other reliefs.

2. You are hereby required to show cause within 30 days from the date of publication or on **16/06/2023** at **10:30 AM** in the forenoon in person or by pleader/ advocate duly instructed as to why the relief pray for should not be granted.

3. Take notice that, in default of you appearance the day mentioned herein before, proceeding will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal on this day **27/02/2023.**

By Order of the Tribunal-2
Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal-2
Bangalore

IN THE COURT OF DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-2, B.S.N.L. BUILDING, 4TH FLOOR, TELEPHONE HOUSE, RAJBHAVAN ROAD, BENGALURU-560 001
O.A. NO. 772/2022

BETWEEN :
ICICI Bank Ltd. ...APPLICANT
AND
SRI. A. SIVAKUMAR ...DEFENDANT

To,
SRI. A SIVAKUMAR, S/O. SRI. KIRTHIGA, AGED ABOUT 45 YEARS, PROPRIETOR OF MITTA PAPERS, NO. 441, MAHAVEER FORTUNE APARTMENT, A BLOCK, 3RD MAGADI MAIN ROAD, G HOSAHALLI, BANGALORE NORTH, VISWANEEDAH, BANGALORE-560 091
MOBILE NO-9972303391
E MAIL ID h.a.sivakumarn@gmail.com
Also at
SRI. A. SIVAKUMAR, PROPRIETOR OF MITTA PAPERS, NO. 47/4, BMTC DEPO ROAD, SEEGEHALLY, MAGADI MAIN ROAD, BENGALURU URBAN, BANGALORE- 560 091.

SUMMONS ISSUED TO DEFENDANT UNDER RULE 23(VIII) OF DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES OF 1993 BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION

WHEREAS : the applicant has instituted an application under section 19 of Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993, against the above defendant for the recovery of Sum of Rs. 33,49,553/- (Rupees Thirty Three Lakhs Forty Nine Thousand Five Hundred and Fifty Three Rupees only) amount together with current and future interest, cost and other reliefs.

2. You are hereby required to show cause within 30 days from the date of publication or on 21/06/2023 at 10:30 AM in the forenoon in person or by pleader/advocate duly instructed as to why the relief pray for should not be granted.

3. Take notice that, in default of you appearance the day mentioned herein before, proceeding will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal on this day **27/02/2023.**

By Order of the Tribunal-2
Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal-2
Bangalore

IN THE COURT OF THE XV ADDL CITY CIVIL JUDGE AT BANGALORE (CCH-03)
ORIGINAL SUIT NO. 744 OF 2021

BETWEEN :
ICICI Bank Ltd
a body corporate incorporated and registered under the Indian Companies Act, 1956 and licensed as a Bank under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 having Registered Office at: "Landmark", Race Course Circle, Vadodara- 390007. And having its Branch office at ICICI Bank Ltd., 04/10, 1st Floor Mittal Tower, Bommanahalli- 560 068 and represented by its POA holder and Collection Manager Mr. Pramodh G, S/o Gurumallappa, Age 45 Years
...Plaintiff
And
Mr. T Udaya Kumar
...Defendant

Summons to the defendant by way of paper publiction

To,
Defendant :
Mr T Udaya Kumar aged about 33 years, Son of T Chandraiah, R/at Nagamma Nilaya, Near Indian Petrol Bunk, KRS Agrahara Kunigal Tumkur Dist- 572130

Whereas the Plaintiff above named has filed a suit under Order VII Rule 1 of the Civil Procedure Code for recovery of Rs.5,17,845/- (Rupees Five Lakhs Seventeen Thousand Eight Hundred and Forty Five Only) together with interest at the rate 18% p.a. from date of due to till the date of realization. You are hereby summoned to appear before this Hon'ble Court, in person or by a pleader on 01.06. 2023 at 11.00 am to show cause against the suit, and failing wherein the suit will be heard and determined exparte.

Given under my hand and seal of the Court this 22nd day of February, 2023.

BY ORDER OF THE COURT,
ASSISTANT REGIS
CITY CIVIL COURT
BANGALORE

Advocates for Petitioner - S.M. ANEES AHAMED B M KUSHALAPPA, Advocates, SAAN LAW Associates, #4(10/2), West Park Road, Kumar Park East, Bangalore 560001.

TENDERS

E-TENDER NOTICE

e-Tenders are invited from reputed parties having PWD/CPWD/KSEB License and experience in Electrical /Civil contractors for the Solar Fencing work at Chithalvetty, Kumaramkudy and Cheruppittakavu Estate of 2023 Rubber Replanting area of the State Farming Corporation. For more details Log on **www.sfckerala.com**

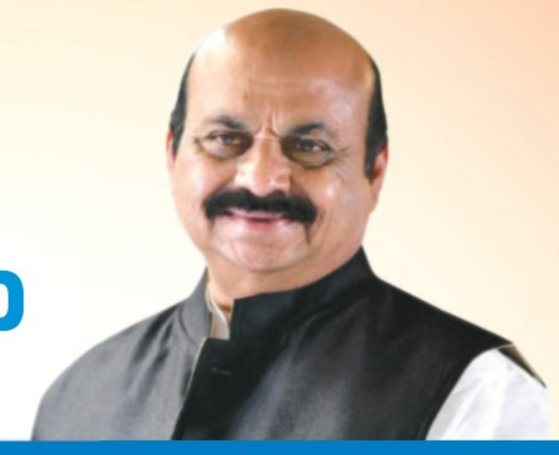
Ph: 0475 - 2222251/52, 9188292251

Sd/-
Managing Director
The State Farming Corporation of Kerala Ltd.

A BG-BGE

ಶ್ರೀ ನರೇಂದ್ರ ಮೋದಿ
ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ಪ್ರಧಾನ ಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳು, ಭಾರತ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಸರಬರಾಜು ಕಂಪನಿ ನಿಯಮಿತ



ಶ್ರೀ ಬಸವರಾಜ ಎಸ್. ಬೊಮ್ಮಾಯಿ
ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳು, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

ಬದ್ಧತೆಯ ಕಾರ್ಯ, ಭರವಸೆಯ ಬೆಳಕು

ಶಂಕುಸ್ಥಾಪನೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಉದ್ಘಾಟನಾ ಸಮಾರಂಭ

ದಿನಾಂಕ: 06.03.2023, ಸೋಮವಾರ, ಸಮಯ: ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನ 12.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ
ಸ್ಥಳ: ಬೆವಿಕಂ ಸೆಂಟರ್ ಆಫ್ ಎಕ್ಸಲೆನ್ಸ್ ಕಟ್ಟಡ, ಹೆಚ್. ಎಸ್. ಆರ್. ಬಡಾವಣೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳಾದ **ಶ್ರೀ ಬಸವರಾಜ ಎಸ್. ಬೊಮ್ಮಾಯಿಯವರ** ಅಮೃತಹಸ್ತದಿಂದ ಉದ್ಘಾಟನೆ.
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಇಂಧನ, ಕನ್ನಡ ಮತ್ತು ಸಂಸ್ಕೃತಿ ಸಚಿವರಾದ **ಶ್ರೀ ವಿ. ಸುನಿಲ್ ಕುಮಾರ್** ಅವರ ಉಪಸ್ಥಿತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ

ಹೊಸ ಕಛೇರಿ ಕಟ್ಟಡಗಳ ಉದ್ಘಾಟನೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಶಂಕುಸ್ಥಾಪನೆ

ಬೆವಿಕಂ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ, ರಾಮನಗರ, ಚಿತ್ರದುರ್ಗ, ತುಮಕೂರು, ಕೋಲಾರ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ಮತ್ತು ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮಗಳು

ಬೆ.ವಿ.ಕಂ ಕಛೇರಿ ಕಟ್ಟಡಗಳ ಉದ್ಘಾಟನೆ

- ಸೆಂಟರ್ ಆಫ್ ಎಕ್ಸಲೆನ್ಸ್ ಕಟ್ಟಡ, ಹೆಚ್.ಎಸ್.ಆರ್ ಲೇಔಟ್, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ
- ಬೆವಿಕಂ ತರಬೇತಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರ, ರಾಮನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ
- ಬೇತಮಂಗಲ ಉಪ–ವಿಭಾಗೀಯ ಕಛೇರಿ ಕಟ್ಟಡ, ಕೆ.ಜಿ.ಎಫ್ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಕೋಲಾರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ
- ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಉಪ–ವಿಭಾಗೀಯ ಕಛೇರಿ ಕಟ್ಟಡ, ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ
- ಶಿಡ್ಲಘಟ್ಟ ನಗರ ಉಪ–ವಿಭಾಗೀಯ ಕಛೇರಿ ಕಟ್ಟಡ, ಶಿಡ್ಲಘಟ್ಟ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ
- ಶ್ರೀನಿವಾಸಪುರ ಉಪ–ವಿಭಾಗೀಯ ಕಛೇರಿ ಕಟ್ಟಡ, ಶ್ರೀನಿವಾಸಪುರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಕೋಲಾರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ
- ಉಪ–ವಿಭಾಗೀಯ ಕಛೇರಿ ಕಟ್ಟಡ, ಶ್ರೀರಾಮಪುರ (ಹೊಸದುರ್ಗ ತಾಲೂಕು), ಚಿತ್ರದುರ್ಗ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ
- ನೆಲಮಂಗಲ ಶಾಖಾ ಕಛೇರಿ ಕಟ್ಟಡ, ಕಾರ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಪಾಲನಾ ಘಟಕ–1 ಮತ್ತು 2, ನೆಲಮಂಗಲ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ
- ಉಪ–ವಿಭಾಗೀಯ ಕಛೇರಿ ಕಟ್ಟಡ, ಪಾವಗಡ, ತುಮಕೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ
- ಉಪ–ವಿಭಾಗೀಯ ಕಛೇರಿ ಕಟ್ಟಡ, W-7, ಆರ್.ಆರ್ ನಗರ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ
- ಉಪ–ವಿಭಾಗೀಯ ಕಛೇರಿ ಕಟ್ಟಡ, S–15, ಕತ್ರಿಗುಪ್ಪೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ
- ಉಪ–ವಿಭಾಗೀಯ ಕಛೇರಿ ಕಟ್ಟಡ, S–16, ಬಿ.ಟಿ.ಎಂ. ಲೇಔಟ್, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ
- ಉಪ–ವಿಭಾಗೀಯ ಕಛೇರಿ ಕಟ್ಟಡ, ತಿಪಟೂರು, ತುಮಕೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ
- ಅತ್ತಿಬೆಲೆ ಶಾಖಾ ಕಛೇರಿ ಕಟ್ಟಡ, ಕಾರ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಪಾಲನಾ ಘಟಕ–1 ಮತ್ತು 2, ಆನೇಕಲ್ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ
- ಸೂರ್ಯ ಸಿಟಿ ಶಾಖಾ ಕಛೇರಿ ಕಟ್ಟಡ, ಆನೆಕಲ್ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ
- ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ನಗರ ಉಪ–ವಿಭಾಗೀಯ ಕಛೇರಿ ಕಟ್ಟಡ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ
- ನಗರ ಉಪವಿಭಾಗಿಯ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಕೋಲಾರ, ಕೋಲಾರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ

ಬೆ.ವಿ.ಕಂ ಕಛೇರಿ ಕಟ್ಟಡಗಳ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಶಂಕುಸ್ಥಾಪನೆ

- ಉಪ–ವಿಭಾಗೀಯ ಕಛೇರಿ ಕಟ್ಟಡ, K–4, ಯಶವಂತಪುರ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ
- ಉಪ–ವಿಭಾಗೀಯ ಕಛೇರಿ ಕಟ್ಟಡ, N–3, ಗೋವಿಂದರಾಜನಗರ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ
- ಉಪ–ವಿಭಾಗೀಯ ಕಛೇರಿ ಕಟ್ಟಡ, W–8, ತ್ಯಾಗರಾಜನಗರ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ
- ಬೊಮ್ಮಸಂದ್ರ ಶಾಖಾ ಕಛೇರಿ ಕಟ್ಟಡ, ಆನೆಕಲ್ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ
- ಮುತ್ತನಲ್ಲೂರು ಶಾಖಾ ಕಛೇರಿ ಕಟ್ಟಡ, ಆನೆಕಲ್ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ
- ಇಂಡ್ಲವಾಡಿ ಶಾಖಾ ಕಛೇರಿ ಕಟ್ಟಡ, ಆನೆಕಲ್ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ
- ಆನೇಕಲ್ ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಶಾಖಾ ಕಛೇರಿ ಕಟ್ಟಡ, ಆನೆಕಲ್ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ
- ಚಂದಾಪುರ ಶಾಖಾ ಕಛೇರಿ ಕಟ್ಟಡ, ಆನೆಕಲ್ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ

1. ಬೆಳಕು – ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ರಹಿತ ಮನೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಪರ್ಕ.
2. 24 ಗಂಟೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಟಿ.ಸಿ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ.
3. ಅಮೃತ ಜ್ಯೋತಿ–ಎಸ್.ಸಿ, ಎಸ್.ಟಿ ಕುಟುಂಬಕ್ಕೆ 75 ಯೂನಿಟ್ ಉಚಿತ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್.
4. ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರದಲ್ಲಿ 11 ಲಕ್ಷಕ್ಕೂ ಅಧಿಕ ಡಿಜಿಟಲ್ ಮೀಟರ್‌ಗಳ ಅಳವಡಿಕೆ.
5. 320 ಇವಿ ಚಾರ್ಜಿಂಗ್ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಕಾರ್ಯಾರಂಭ, 3264 ಇವಿ ಚಾರ್ಜಿಂಗ್ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸ್ಥಾಪನೆ ಗುರಿ
6. ಬೆವಿಕಂ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 49 ಟ್ರಾನ್ಸ್‌ಫಾರ್ಮರ್ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್‌ಗಳ ಸ್ಥಾಪನೆ .
7. ಪ್ರತಿ ತಿಂಗಳ ಮೂರನೇ ಶನಿವಾರ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಅದಾಲತ್ ಆಯೋಜನೆ.
8. ಸೌರ ಗೃಹ ಯೋಜನೆ ಯಶಸ್ವಿ ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನ.

ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಕಂಬ, ಟಿಸಿ ಮತ್ತು ಸಲಕರಣೆಗಳ ಸಾಗಾಣಿಕೆಗಾಗಿ ಖರೀದಿಸಿರುವ 25 ಹೊಸ ಲಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳಾದ ಶ್ರೀ ಬಸವರಾಜ ಬೊಮ್ಮಾಯಿ ಅವರಿಂದ ಹಸಿರು ನಿಶಾನೆ.

ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ಪ್ರಧಾನ ಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳಾದ ಶ್ರೀ ನರೇಂದ್ರ ಮೋದಿಯವರಿಗೆ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳಾದ ಶ್ರೀ ಬಸವರಾಜ ಎಸ್. ಬೊಮ್ಮಾಯಿಯವರೊಂದಿಗೆ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಇಂಧನ, ಕನ್ನಡ ಮತ್ತು ಸಂಸ್ಕೃತಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಸಚಿವರಾದ ಶ್ರೀ ವಿ. ಸುನಿಲ್ ಕುಮಾರ್‌ರವರು ಇಲಾಖಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮದಲ್ಲಿ ಪರಶುರಾಮ ಪ್ರತಿಮೆಯನ್ನು ಹಸ್ತಾಂತರಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವುದು.

ಶ್ರೀ ಕಪಿಲ್ ಮೋಹನ್, ಭಾ.ಆ.ಸೇ. ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಅಪರ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಗಳು, ಇಂಧನ ಇಲಾಖೆ	**ಶ್ರೀ ಎಮ್.ಎಸ್. ಶ್ರೀಕರ್** ಭಾ.ಆ.ಸೇ. ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಕ.ವಿ.ನಿ.ನಿ., ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು	**ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ಡಾ. ಎನ್. ಮಂಜುಳ** ಭಾ.ಆ.ಸೇ. ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಕವಿಪ್ರನಿನಿ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು
ಶ್ರೀ ಮಹಾಂತೇಶ ಬೀಳಗಿ ಭಾ.ಆ.ಸೇ. ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಬೆವಿಕಂ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು	**ಶ್ರೀ ದರ್ಶನ್ ಜೆ,** ಭಾ.ರಾ.ಸೇ. ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು (ಹಣಕಾಸು), ಬೆ.ವಿ.ಕಂ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು	**ಶ್ರೀ. ರಮೇಶ್ ಎಚ್. ಜೆ.** ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು (ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ), ಬೆ.ವಿ.ಕಂ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

ಬೆಸ್ಕಾಂ 24x7 ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿ
1912

"ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಮಾನವರು ಸ್ವತಂತ್ರರಾಗಿಯೇ ಜನಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಘನತೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಹಕ್ಕುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸಮಾನರಾಗಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ವಿವೇಕ ಮತ್ತು ಅಂತಃಕರಣಗಳನ್ನು ಪಡೆದವರಾದ್ದರಿಂದ ಅವರು ಪರಸ್ಪರ ಸಹೋದರ ಭಾವದಿಂದ ವರ್ತಿಸಬೇಕು." – ಇದು ಪ್ರತಿಯೊಬ್ಬ ಭಾರತೀಯನ ಸಂವಿಧಾನಬದ್ಧ ಮೂಲಭೂತ ಕರ್ತವ್ಯ

A BG-BGE

INBRIEF

Workshop on national aquifer mapping and management

The Central Groundwater Board is organising a regional workshop on national aquifer mapping and management in Bengaluru on Monday. Representatives from Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Goa, and Union Territories of Lakshadweep and Puducherry are participating in the workshop.

Cyclothon held to mark International Women's Day

Health and Family Welfare Department had organised a cyclothon from Vidhana Soudha to Arogya Soudha on Sunday ahead of International Women's Day. Health Minister K. Sudhakar inaugurated the cyclothon which was themed "Healthy women, healthy India. About 300 people participated in the event. The Minister said the main intention of the cyclothon was to create awareness among women about the ways and means of staying healthy through physical exercises and nutritious food.

Foxconn pact: Politicians' statements trigger 'clarification' by company

Government sources say one of the issues was political representatives taking the name of Apple, which partners with Foxconn to manufacture its products; further, though the company had expected no big announcements with numbers, it was announced by leaders

Sharath S. Srivatsa
BENGALURU

The "clarification" issued by Hon Hai Corporation (Foxconn) over its investment proposals in Karnataka, a day after signing the Letter of Intent with the State government, is said to have been triggered by corporate governance issues and overenthusiastic public statements of politicians that overlooked official processes.

However, while the confusion has come as a huge embarrassment to the government, sources said it is not expected to hinder Foxconn's interest in investing in the State.

Government sources said that the officials had been working with Foxconn for nearly six months, and the statement had "come as a surprise."

Foxconn, in its press statement, has said that as a publicly listed company, it will disclose investment plans at the appropriate time. FILE PHOTO

The Foxconn representatives signed a Letter of Intent (which is in public domain) on Friday with the Karnataka government for setting up a manufacturing facility on 300 acres of land near Kempegowda International Airport, but on Saturday it stated that no binding and definitive agreements for new investments have been entered into. "Negotiations and internal review are ongoing. Financial investment sums discussed in the media are not information being released by Foxconn," it said in a statement.

The Foxconn delegation had been led by Chairman and CEO Young Liu, who was on a business trip to India from February 27 to March 4, during which time he also met Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Though the Letter of Intent said one lakh employment will be generated between 2023 and 2027, Foxconn said in its clarification that the employment being discussed in media does not equate to direct jobs by Foxconn. It hopes its investments will lead to direct and indirect job growth for local communities. Even Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai had tweeted that the project will generate one lakh jobs and the Letter of Intent was signed in his presence.

Government sources said that one of the issues was political representatives taking the name of Apple, which partners with Foxconn to manufacture its products. Union Minister Rajeev Chandrashekar on Friday tweeted: "Apple phones to be built in a new 300 acre factory in Karnataka. Double engine Sarkar of PM Narendra Modi and CM Basavaraj Bommai to create investments and jobs and one trillion dollar economy for Karnataka."

In his tweet, Mr. Bommai said: "Apple phones to be built in the State soon. Apart from creating about one lakh jobs, it will create a whole lot of opportunities for Karnataka."

According to sources, this project is not of Apple alone. "It involves EV vehicles and other electronics too. But the impression was given that the project is of Apple to which we are given to understand the phone maker has taken an objection to."

Further, though the company had expected no big announcements with numbers, it was announced by political representatives.

"The Taiwanese regulatory authority is very strict and such investments should be brought to its notice before going public. However, it was not so. The proposal also needs board approval too," sources said.

Even Foxconn, in its press statement, has said that as a publicly listed company, Foxconn will disclose investment plans at the appropriate time as required by Taiwan securities regulator.

From Page One

Madal case: Congress calls for State bandh

However, KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar told reporters at Koratagere in Tumakuru district that the Congress would hold the two-hour bandh to create awareness about the "corrupt" BJP government among the public. He said: "The two-hour peaceful bandh will not cause inconvenience to the general public. Transport, education and health sectors would be spared. I appeal to the trading community to shut business for two hours on March 9 between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. to participate in the bandh."

Mr. Shivakumar said: "The Chief Minister repeatedly asked for evidence of corruption. Now, the Lokayukta has given the evidence. I urge Prime Minister Narendra Modi to sack the Chief Minister."

Action against Madal?

Meanwhile, the saffron party functionaries acknowledged that the party had been left red-faced and deeply embarrassed after the legislator's son was arrested and a huge pile of cash was seized, the visuals of which are in the public domain now.

Sources indicated that the party is likely to remove Mr. Virupakshappa from the party in case his arrest becomes inevitable. "With Prime Minister returning to Karnataka on March 12, such an action is likely before that. The development has become an embarrassment for the Prime Minister, who has been speaking up on corruption issues. The central leadership has taken note of it," they said.

Meanwhile, Mr. Virupakshappa has been absconding ever since the Lokayukta police arrested his son on Thursday. The Lokayukta police have formed special teams to locate the MLA and arrest him, even as he is expected to approach the court seeking anticipatory bail on Monday.

Is Kabini's charm for elephants fading?

R. Krishna Kumar
MYSURU

Is there a decline in the number of elephants congregating at Kabini Backwaters during summer due to artificial replenishment of water holes and ensuring adequate supply during peak summer inside Bandipur and Nagarahole national parks ?

That is the question doing rounds among a section of conservationists and even officials who aver that the number of elephants congregating at Kabini was on a decline since the last 10 or 15 years.

''The decline commenced more than 10 years ago about the same period when Forest Department took up interventions with emphasis on drilling and replenishing water source. This has ensured adequate water within the forests and hence elephant herds may find no reason to congregate at Kabini backwaters anymore," according to activists.

Today, not only are the number of herds less but even the size of a herd is small unlike in the past when a single herd alone would have about 30 to 40 or more elephants at Kabini, according to an official who did not wish to be quoted.

An elephant herd in the Kabini backwaters in Mysuru district. M.A. SRIRAM

However, Ramesh Kumar, Director, Bandipur Tiger Reserve, said one could not come to such a conclusion without a scientific study and added that it was only a matter of perception based on a one-off visit. He said a similar view had emerged a few years ago that the gaurs are on a decline in Bandipur but their numbers are healthy.

But D. Rajkumar of Wildlife Conservation Foundation, Mysuru, seconded the view that the herd size and numbers were less at Kabini in recent years and said the perceptions are based on long-term observations.

"The congregation of elephants used to synchronise with depleting water level in the Kabini reservoir during mid-March and elephants used to stay on till the onset of monsoon. But over the years, the dam does not drain out fully even during summer as rains tend to lash the region even as late as December or January. This, coupled with availability of water inside the forests due to artificial replenishment, may have upset the migration pattern," he added.

In Bandipur alone, there are 373 water holes which are natural sources and most used to dry up during summer. But more than 30 solar-powered pumps ensure that the bigger ones are full throughout the year.

Wildlife biologists had also cautioned of unintended consequences of artificial water replenishment as it would prevent natural regulation of animal population by the process of weaning off the weak. Whether the recent spurt in human-animal conflict in the forest periphery could be attributed to such interventions is a matter of conjecture at present.

Congress screening committee to have two-day sitting to finalise candidates

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The screening committee of the Congress is set to meet in Bengaluru for two days from Tuesday to finalise the candidates for Assembly constituencies, and recommend names to the central election committee.

Party sources said that the chairman of the central screening committee Mohan Prakash will be meeting KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar, Leader of the Opposition Siddaramaiah, and Campaign Committee Chairman M.B. Patil to discuss the current list of candidates.

Sources said that the party is in a crucial moment to identify candidates as there is a huge competition among the aspirants.

"The party is ready with a list for about 120 constituencies with a single candidate. This includes 70 incumbent legislators and those where only one candidate has applied. In the rest, there is a huge competition as there is a general feeling of Congress doing well in elections," the sources said.

Further, sources said that the announcement of list of candidates could be delayed till the election dates are announced when the model code of conduct kicks in. "The party is expecting some legislators from BJP, including a few who deserted the party in 2019, to rejoin. Congress will keep in abeyance announcement of candidates in such constituencies," sources said.

Kharge campaigns

Meanwhile, AICC president M. Mallikarjun Kharge attended the Praja Dwani Yatra in Koratgere Assembly constituency of Tumakuru district on Sunday. He is expected to take part in more rallies in the coming days. He also inaugurated the Congress Bhavan at Koratagere on Sunday.

CORRIDORS OF POWER

Where is Narayana Gowda headed?

Minister for Youth Empowerment and Sports K.C. Narayana Gowda's (*in picture*) victory from K.R. Pet Assembly constituency in the 2019 bypolls was by no means a small achievement for the BJP. For, the saffron party had scripted history by recording its first ever Assembly poll triumph in the Vokkaliga heartland of Mandya district.

So much so, the BJP still refers to Mr. Gowda's bypoll victory to underscore its "growing" strength in Mandya district. But a question mark now hangs over Mr. Gowda's continuation in the saffron party. Even though the Minister appears to be sharing the dais with BJP leaders and participating in party programmes, speculation is rife over his possible defection to the Congress ahead of the coming Assembly elections.

Days after firmly refusing to shoulder the responsibility of Minister in-charge of Mandya district in the BJP government, Mr. Gowda, who quit the JD(S) and joined the BJP in 2019, himself set the tongues wagging when he publicly admitted that he had been invited by the Congress. However, he said he had not taken any decision yet.

Will corruption be poll plank?

The incident of Lokayukta catching a ruling party MLA's son red-handed while accepting bribe in poll-bound Karnataka has created a big stir. The BJP and Opposition Congress are involved in a political slugfest on the powers and functioning of the Karnataka Lokayukta. In a face-saving effort, the BJP has been saying that the previous Congress government led by Siddaramaiah (*in picture*) dealt a big blow to the Karnataka Lokayukta by creation of the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) in 2016. The BJP restored the powers of the Lokayukta by abolishing the ACB, following the High Court's ruling last year.

On its part, the Congress pointed out that the BJP government had, in fact, back then defended the creation of the ACB in the High Court. The Opposition also talked of the existence of ACB in BJP-ruled States.

As both parties continue to trade charges against each other, it remains to be seen if corruption will become a major poll flank in the coming Assembly election.

Laiqh A.Khan
Nagesh Prabhu

Yediyurappa honoured with Jagadguru Renukacharya Award

The Hindu Bureau
HASSAN

Former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa was honoured with Jagadguru Renukacharya award at Balehonnur in N.R. Pura taluk in Chikkamagaluru district on Sunday.

The award carries a purse of ₹1 lakh and a memento. Prasanna Renuka Veerasomeshwara Swamy of Rambhapuri Mutt presented the award in presence of Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Pralhad Joshi, Public Works Department minister C.C. Patil and several seers.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Bommai said Yediyurappa faced many challenges in his long political career. "His contributions to Karnataka are immense", he said.

Office of the District Surgeon, SNR District Hospital, Kolar
Ph: 08152-222035,36 e-mail: **dskolar@gmail.com**
No.: SNR/diet/tender/01/2022-23 Date: 23.02.2023

E-TENDER NOTICE

Bids are hereby invited for the supply of diet articles and fresh bread to SNR hospital, Kolar. Details of Tender terms and conditions are available on E-Tender Portal **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** Tendering authority reserves the right to cancel any or all e-bids without assigning any reasons. Bidders are advised to visit the website regularly for updated information from time to time. E-Tender No.: SNR/diet/tender/01/22-23, Dt: 23.02.2023, Estimated cost: **Rs. 60,00,000/-,** EMD: **Rs. 1,43,750/-.** Last dat for submission: **24.03.2023, 01:00 p.m.**

Sd/- District Surgeon, SNR District Hospital, Kolar
DIPR/Kolar/R.O. No.537/MC&A/2022-23

COVID-19. DO NOT PANIC, BE AWARE
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

R KRISHNAN (102), Retired Proof Reader, The Hindu, Chennai passed away on 05-03-2023. Address: D-7, Golden Jubilee Apartments, Anna Main Road, K.K.Nagar, Chennai -600078. Contact: 9840130719

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DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

25th ANNIVERSARY

Shri. K.R. RAMAMANI
(Senior Advocate)
Fondly remembered by Family Members, Advocates & Staff of M/s. Subbaraya Aiyar, Padmanabhan and Ramamani Advocates

Kochi chokes as fire at waste dump still rages; govt. asks people to stay indoors

Hospitals asked to prepare for emergency admission of patients with respiratory distress and to stock up on medical oxygen. High-level meeting attended by Central government officials discusses long-term solutions, including bio-mining, using micro-organisms to break down the waste

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

A crisis meeting chaired by Chief Secretary V.P. Joy has urged Kochi residents to stay indoors and ordered hospitals to prepare for emergency admission of patients with respiratory distress as the three-day-old smouldering fire at the expansive garbage storage yard of the Brahmapuram solid waste treatment plant in the city fuelled public anxiety about the severe air pollution and its worrying public health fallout.

The meeting, attended by Central government officials and chemical fire experts late on Saturday, also attempted to quantify the public health implications of the large-scale release of dioxins from the burning plastic into the atmosphere.

The government has advised non-essential establishments in Kochi, including shopping malls, to close for the day to keep people indoors.

The administration is closely monitoring hospital admissions, especially those with respiratory trouble. It has asked hospitals to stock up on medical oxygen and ensure sufficient beds in intensive care units.

Long-term solutions suggested at the meeting reportedly included bio-mining, using micro-organisms to break down the largely unsegregated waste.

Meanwhile, residents' associations have blamed the municipal authorities for ignoring cautionary reports that the garbage mound is a ticking toxic time bomb. In a related development, the State police are investigating whether sabotage caused the fire.

Firemen, on Sunday, try to put out the fire that broke out at the Brahmapuram waste treatment plant in Kochi three days ago. PTI

Police begin probe

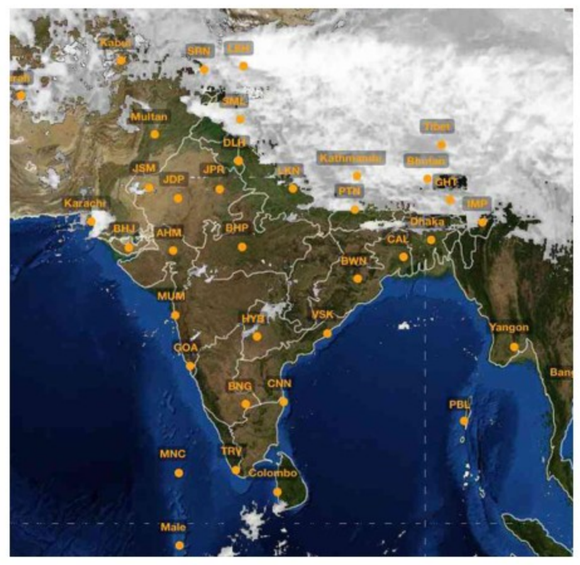
The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

With allegations doing the rounds that the massive heaps of plastic waste at Brahmapuram garbage yard were deliberately set on fire by vested interests, the Kochi city police have launched a probe.

The probe will cover the possibility of the fire being started deliberately by stakeholders involved in garbage disposal, it is learnt. District Police Chief (Kochi City) K. Sethuraman said the immediate priority was to douse the fire. Efforts would be made to prevent its recurrence.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.00 HRS)

Forecast for Monday: Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning/ gusty wind likely at isolated places over east Rajasthan; with lightning likely at isolated places over Assam and Meghalaya, sub-Himalayan West Bengal and Sikkim, west Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Madhya Maharashtra, Marathwada, Vidarbha and Chhattisgarh

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	34.1	19.0	Kozhikode	—	35.7	24.5
Ahmedabad	—	38.2	23.6	Kurnool	—	37.6	20.0
Aizawl	—	32.6	12.1	Lucknow	—	31.4	16.7
Allahabad	—	34.0	16.0	Madurai	—	35.4	22.8
Bengaluru	—	32.4	18.8	Mangaluru	—	36.9	20.5
Bhopal	—	—	20.3	Mumbai	—	36.2	24.0
Bhubaneswar	—	37.0	20.4	Mysuru	—	32.4	—
Chandigarh	—	27.8	14.9	New Delhi	—	31.1	15.3
Chennai	—	32.4	23.3	Patna	—	33.6	18.5
Coimbatore	—	34.7	20.8	Port Blair	—	31.1	25.6
Dehradun	—	29.6	13.3	Puducherry	—	34.2	20.8
Gangtok	0.4	18.4	11.5	Pune	—	35.3	19.4
Goa	—	36.0	22.1	Raipur	—	36.0	16.5
Guwahati	—	33.3	18.0	Ranchi	—	32.3	18.4
Hubballi	—	34.0	20.0	Shillong	—	23.0	11.8
Hyderabad	—	34.6	19.5	Shimla	—	19.3	9.5
Imphal	—	30.2	12.1	Srinagar	—	17.8	7.4
Jaipur	—	31.0	18.8	Thiruvananthapuram	—	34.5	24.6
Kochi	—	31.6	25.2	Tiruchi	—	34.5	23.0
Kohima	—	22.0	11.2	Vijayawada	—	36.0	21.2
Kolkata	—	33.8	21.3	Visakhapatnam	—	34.0	23.7

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	..	..	.10	...247	...201	
Bengaluru	.03	..47	.17	90	...115	
Chennai	.23	..	.40	...142	...107	
Delhi	.24	.59	.48	...289	...166	
Hyderabad	.06	.55	.44	...166	...151	
Kolkata	.15	.13	.52	...195	...133	
Lucknow	.27	.56	.35	...146	...128	
Mumbai	.88	328	114	...252	...213	
Pune	.95	135	114	...271	...160	
Visakhapatnam	.08	..61	.42	...190	...235	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Araria, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 359 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Damoh, Madhya Pradesh recorded a healthy AQI score of 31

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

MIM announces 3 candidates for Karnataka polls

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Days after its first ever national convention in Mumbai, where the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) resolved to expand across the country, the party released its first list of three candidates for the Karnataka polls. MIM has fielded Lateefkhan Amirkhan Pathan from Belgavi North - II constituency, Allahbaksh Bijapur from Basavanabagewadi constituency, and Durgappa Kashappa Bijawad from Hubli-Dharwad East constituency.

Farmers oppose land acquisition for Kitex garment plant in Telangana

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Farmers of Shayampet Haveli in Geesugonda mandal of Warangal district in Telangana are resisting acquisition of their agricultural lands for the expansion of children's garments manufacturing unit of Kitex, the apparel major from Kerala.

The Kitex project was one of the two units which commenced work on the 1,200 acres allotted by the State government for the Kakatiya Mega Textile Park spread over Geesugonda and Sangem mandals.

Switch on: Minister K.T. Rama Rao performi *bhoomi puja* for construction of Kitex factory in Geesukonda mandal. FILE PHOTO

Kitex was allotted 187 acres, but the company requested the government to sanction another 13.29 acres to realign its compound wall to make it *Vastu* compliant. Otherwise, the alignment of the wall criss-crossed *patta* lands of farmers in its present form.

In response to the request of the company, a team of Revenue officials tried to survey the lands on Saturday but they met stiff resistance from farmers who were aggrieved that the government did not concede the agreement already entered into with them five years ago when their holdings were sought to be acquired for the park.

Yet, the government served notices on them to give up 13.29 acres required by the company but the Revenue team had to return without surveying the land.

No obstacles to garment units, says group MD

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

The Kitex group expects its twin garments units in Telangana to be commissioned in June. Group managing director Sabu M. Jacob told *The Hindu* on Sunday that the units will take care of the entire cycle of operations from cotton to finished products.

He said the group expects no problems on the way to completion of the projects – one in Warangal and another in Hyderabad.

Siddaramaiah hints at Shivalinge Gowda being Congress candidate for Arsikere

The Hindu Bureau
HASSAN

Former Chief Minister and Leader of the Opposition Siddaramaiah has appealed to the people of Arsikere to vote for K.M. Shivalinge Gowda JD(S) MLA, in the coming elections "if he comes to Congress".

Addressing a gathering after unveiling a statue of Sangolli Rayanna at Guttinakere in Arsikere taluk, Mr. Siddaramaiah said, "Support the Congress in the coming elections. Ensure Mr. Gowda wins, if he joins the Congress. Each vote you give him is like voting in my favour", he said. With this, Mr. Siddaramaiah gave a hint that Mr. Gowda would be the Congress candidate for Arsikere constituency in the elections.

Former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah with K.M. Shivalinge Gowda JD(S) MLA, after unveiling a statue of Sangolli Rayanna at Guttinakere in Arsikere taluk of Hassan district. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Mr. Gowda, a three-time JD(S) MLA, distanced himself from the party recently. He held a meeting with his supporters, who suggested he join the Congress. The MLA has clarified that he would join the Congress. However, he is yet to formally do so.

Mr. Siddaramaiah said during his rule as Chief Minister, he sanctioned funds for development works in the constituency.

The foundation stone for the Yettinahole project, which would benefit people in Arsikere among other areas, was laid during his term. "H.D. Kumaraswamy had opposed the project. He did not even take part in the foundation stone-laying ceremony. However, Mr. Gowda took part in the programme despite opposition from his party leader," he recalled.

There were speculations that Mr. Gowda would join the Congress in the programme. However, he said he would join the party at an appropriate time. "I have taken a decision to join the party after consulting my supporters in the constituency. They have all suggested me to join the party," he said.

He also thanked Mr. Siddaramaiah for his cooperation during his term as Chief Minister in bringing development works to the constituency.

BJP IT wing head joins AIADMK, implies Annamalai working against the party

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

C.T.R. Nirmal Kumar, head of the IT cell and social media unit of the BJP in Tamil Nadu, quit the party on Sunday and joined the AIADMK in the presence of its interim general secretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami in Chennai.

In a statement, he insinuated that BJP State president K. Annamalai was working against the party's interests and was "secretly bargaining with a Minister". He did not substantiate the charge or name either Mr. Annamalai or the Minister, but made it clear that his angst was against the State leadership.

"I encountered many embarrassments over the past year and a half to the extent possible. I worked honestly but only regrets remain. Adieu," Mr. Kumar said on a micro-blogging site. In a letter, Mr. Kumar said the State leadership used the workers and the party as "footwear" and "spied on" its own functionaries and workers. He said the leadership used the party and the State headquarters for "commercial means".

C.T.R. Nirmal Kumar meeting AIADMK interim general secretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami in Chennai on Sunday.

Accusing the leadership of taking the party towards destruction, he said, "The party's structure today is not even 20% of what it used to be in 2019. The person, who is not bothered about it and living in a dream world, could never realise the field reality." Mr. Kumar claimed many like him attempted in vain to make the leadership realise the charges.

"Above all, while I am waging a legal struggle with a Minister, how can I be with someone [the BJP leadership] who speaks strongly against the Minister in public but bargains with the Minister in secret?"

In a Twitter post, Mr. Annamalai extended his wishes to Mr. Kumar.

Reacting to Mr. Kumar's resignation, BJP State vice-president Karu. Nagarajan said the party was greater than the individual.

He said the BJP works for the development of the nation and the party gets priority over individuals. Mr. Kumar has degraded himself by making such statements while quitting.

CBI summons Kadapa MP in murder case for third time

The Hindu Bureau
KADAPA

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has summoned YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) Member of Parliament in Kadapa Y.S. Avinash Reddy for the third time to appear before its Hyderabad office on Monday in the case pertaining to the murder of his paternal uncle Y.S. Vivekananda Reddy.

The CBI officials went to the Pulivendula residence of Mr. Avinash Reddy and served the summons. The Kadapa MP has appeared before the CBI team twice.

Review panel okays repairs to Polavaram diaphragm wall

T. Appala Naidu
RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM

Repairs can now be taken up without the need for the construction of a new diaphragm wall

The Dam Design Review Panel (DDRP) of the Polavaram Irrigation Project on Sunday gave its approval for repairs of damaged portions of the diaphragm wall after it was satisfied with a structural stability report issued by the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC).

The approval of the DDRP is significant as repairs can now be taken up at the earliest without the need for construction of a new diaphragm wall, said officials.

During the recent Godavari floods, parts of the diaphragm wall had collapsed at two places while the remaining wall up to a length of nearly 700 metres was intact.

The NHPC was asked whether the remaining portion of the wall supports repair works or whether a new diaphragm wall needed to be built.

Kerala Police search *Asianet News* office after 'fake interview' complaint

The Hindu Bureau
KOZHIKODE

An eight-member squad led by Assistant Commissioner of Police P.V. Suresh (District Crime Branch) inspected the regional office of the Asianet News channel in Kozhikode on Sunday in connection with the investigation into the telecast of an alleged "fake" interview of a teenage girl from north Kerala, who was presented as a victim of drug and sexual assault.

The search that went on for hours, interrupting functioning of the reporting team, followed a case registered against the news channel at the Vellayil police station under various sections of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and the IPC. The channel's Executive Editor Sindhu Sooryakumar, Resident Editor Shajahan, and reporter Noufal Bin Yusaf are among those booked on the charges of making false documents and hatching criminal conspiracy.

Up close: Police personnel checking computer files at the regional office of *Asianet News* in Kozhikode on Sunday. K. RAGESH

Meanwhile, Leader of the Opposition V.D. Satheesan claimed that the raid on Asianet News showed government's intolerance.

Journalists' bodies in India raise protest

Barging into media offices is "illegal" and should be considered as "an attack on press freedom", the Press Club of India, Indian Women's Press Corps, Delhi Union of Journalists and the Kerala Union of Working Journalists said in a joint statement. PTI

20 monkeys maul woman to death in Telangana

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

A 70-year-old woman was mauled to death by a troop of monkeys at her house in Ramareddy village in the Kamareddy district of Telangana.

The woman, Chataraboina Narsavva, was cleaning vessels when about 20 monkeys pounced on her and attacked her on Friday. She was all alone at home. Sources said the fear-stricken neighbours made no attempt to rescue her. She succumbed to injuries in the hospital on Saturday.

Tax transitions

GST revenue trends signal more compliance, cooling import demand

The nearly ₹1.5 lakh crore of gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections in February are notable from several aspects. First, they mark the 12th successive month that GST revenues have stayed over ₹1.4 lakh crore, and the fourth highest single month kitty since the launch of the GST regime. The average monthly GST collections in the first 11 months of 2022-23 now stand at ₹1,49,776 crore, 21.5% higher than the average monthly kitty of little over ₹1.23 lakh crore through 2021-22. Interestingly, the average monthly revenues so far this year are higher than actual collections in eight of those months, so collections in the other three months bumped up the average. Those months happen to be April (with the highest monthly revenues of over ₹1.67 lakh crore), and October and January 2023 (whose collections were upgraded to over ₹1.57 lakh crore). The spike in these months can be attributed to quarter-end and year-end return filings whose taxes are collected in the first month of the subsequent quarter. This lends credence to the government's assertion in January that policy changes introduced over the past year have improved compliance with more taxpayers filing returns – a pleasant cultural augury for a country with a low tax base.

Meanwhile, a perceptible shift is underway in the composition of GST revenues. The first 10 months of this fiscal had seen revenues from goods imports rising 29%, while domestic transactions and services imports yielded a 22% uptick in taxes. While this breakdown is not available for January, February marks the second time in three months that domestic revenues have outgrown taxes from goods imports, with the former rising 15% and the latter just 6%. While this is in tune with a sharp dip in imports in January, it also signals a likely cooling of discretionary domestic demand that had been driving up the import bill along with elevated commodity prices. That domestic revenue trends are uneven, with sharp variations across States, is another cause for concern. The 2023-24 Budget expects GST revenue growth to slow from about 22% this year to 12%, with tax buoyancy expected to drop. That represents a pragmatic outlook amid a world tightening its belt for a slowdown, but the Finance Ministry's attempt to play up February's GST kitty by arguing that the "28 day" month normally witnesses lower revenues, is disingenuous and unnecessary, as these revenues pertained to transactions undertaken over the 31 days of January. By this logic, March should see a dip in tax inflows as February had fewer days of activity.

Attack on knowledge

The non-governmental sector should not be dragged into legal quagmire

The decision of the Government of India to suspend the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) licence of the country's premier think tank, the Centre for Policy Research (CPR) is bad in optics and substance. The reasons that are being cited by the authorities include lapses in the income-tax paperwork of CPR's staff, lack of due process in the accounting process, and diversion of funds to publication of books, which the authorities allege is not part of the CPR's objectives. An eagerness to drag the prestigious institution into a quagmire of legal processes is writ large over this entire exercise. The CPR has been working on improving governance and enhancing state capacity among other things, in collaboration with governments, and the public and private sectors. There are many advocacy and campaign groups that have been facing the wrath of the government in the recent past, but the action against the CPR lowers the bar of tolerance for the political establishment to an abysmal level. This betrays an inexplicable hostility towards knowledge creation of all kinds. The FCRA is a regulatory mechanism to ensure that foreign vested interests are not unduly influencing the domestic politics of India, but sweeping application of the law in a manner that clearly disables the non-governmental sector suggests a thoughtless approach bordering on vindictiveness.

India's New Education Policy envisages academic exchanges and cooperation between Indian and global institutions to raise the standard of higher education and research in the country. India also wants to emerge as a centre of technological excellence and manufacturing. Recently, two Australian universities announced their plans to have campuses in India. However, India's global ambitions are clashing with the insecure and reactionary state actions such as the restrictions on the CPR. Collaboration with the world requires the flow of information, personnel and funds in both directions. Restrictions on all these for national security reasons are part of the rule everywhere, and are acceptable. But these are to be exercised sparingly. To assume that Indian thinking should be insulated from foreign ones, while seeking international technology and capital inflow at the same time is a paradox. At any rate, for a country growing as fast as India, a massive expansion in capacity for research is the need of the hour. Along with public funding, private and philanthropic funding are essential for India to continuously expand its knowledge horizons in all fields. The government should not merely tolerate, but facilitate the emergence of several more institutions such as the CPR.

Utilising India's moment under the diplomatic sun

Happymon Jacob

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New Delhi is on a geopolitical high. It hosted the G-20 Foreign Ministers meeting (March 1-2, 2023), the G-20 Finance Ministers meeting (February 22-25) and the Quad Foreign Ministers meeting (March 3), and national capital has been teeming with global leaders and thinkers attending the Ministry of External Affairs-supported Raisina dialogue (March 2-4). A few weeks ago, India also organised the 'Voice of Global South Summit' (January 12-13).

For a country that has for far too long inhabited the sidelines of world politics, criticising and complaining, too powerless to assert itself, and often seen as an irritant by great powers for even having an opinion, India's pivotal position at the G-20, the Quad (the United States, India, Australia and Japan), the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) and the Global South today has given it a sudden surge in stature and reputation. And yet, one year is too short in geopolitics, and geopolitics is not always a function of happy coincidences.

For New Delhi, this is its moment under the sun, the near realisation of a long-awaited pivotal power moment. From the pre-Independence days, through the 75 years of its independent existence, Indian leaders, from Jawaharlal Nehru to A.B. Vajpayee to Narendra Modi have often spoken of India's role in the world – that its culture, history, demography and economic strength provide the country with a strong foundation for such a role. For most part of its history though, New Delhi was too weak to assert itself, or too unimportant, but the solid foundations laid through the decades are starting to make a difference. Contemporary India's pivotal position in world politics is thanks to a fortunate confluence of deliberate and unforeseen factors which appear to be working in New Delhi's favour. A far stronger economic and military power, courted by great powers, New Delhi has cleverly used the failure of the post-war world order today to its advantage. The worry about an aggressively rising China has further prompted global leaders to look for geopolitical alternatives in the Indo-Pacific region.

Treading the fault-lines

Contemporary Indian foreign policy is a textbook example of treading the fault-lines of world politics and, as External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar writes in his book, *The India Way*, "advancing national interests by identifying and exploiting opportunities created by global contradictions". To use pedestrian language, New Delhi has become adept at playing both sides (though not without its costs). Consider this. India is the chair of both the United States/West-led G-20, and the China-centered SCO at the same time. It is seeking to be at the global high table while staking a serious claim to be the leader of the Global South. On the Ukraine war, New Delhi has not alienated, directly or indirectly, any of the parties involved in the war in a big way. While the looming threat of China has brought it closer to the U.S. and the West than ever before in its history, New Delhi is also an active member of multilateral forums which has China in it – BRICS and the SCO. Contemporary India speaks the language of revisionism and status quoism in the same breath, and with ease.

> Whether India will utilise the highs of 2023 to prepare for 2024 or use them to strengthen the country's place in the comity of nations remains to be seen

What does India want?

New Delhi's objective is not difficult to understand; it has long wanted a seat at the global high table. But it has realised that it has little chance of getting one currently, particularly with the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) out of reach. It has, therefore, been hinting at the dysfunctionality of the UNSC, and the utility of more inclusive and flexible forums such as the G-20. Mr. Modi's argument at the G-20 Foreign Ministers meeting that "global governance has failed" is to drive home precisely that point. After taking a dig at the current global governance structures, Mr. Modi went on to say, "We are meeting at a time of deep global divisions. We have a responsibility to those not in this room", underscoring the importance of the G-20 and India's role in it. Even though the meeting ended without a joint statement thanks to the Ukraine war, it was a success for at least two reasons: one, it created the environment for the U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and the Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov to have a meeting for the first time since the war began a year ago, and two, when most other forums are unable to bring together the warring parties in one room, the G-20 has been able to do it.

So, in New Delhi's pursuit of actively seeking a seat at a restructured global high table, the G-20 has its utility as does the Global South. New Delhi's heart may or may not be with the Global South, but it has understood the instrumental utility of the Global South argument in its pursuit of power and status. If China can use the Global South argument for its geopolitical ends, India can definitely do so too.

In its pursuit for a seat at the high table, New Delhi also knows only too well that falling in line with the U.S./the West (on the Ukraine war for instance) reduces India's instrumentality (even for them).

'Fall in line, and you will be forgotten' appears to be the lesson that it has learnt about realpolitik over the past several decades. New Delhi has realised that it is its ability to carefully balance the global fault lines that increases its utility. So those seeking to enlist India's support for bringing more stability and order into the international system might want to consider what New Delhi is really after: a seat at the high table of international politics. Indeed, New Delhi's revisionist language is rooted in its desire to be part of a restructured status quo.

The challenges

New Delhi's moment in the sun is not without its inherent challenges. For one, the sun will set, and the moment shall pass. Indian chairpersonship of the G-20 and the SCO ends this year, and Beijing will not let New Delhi take over the leadership of the Global South so easily. So, is New Delhi using this crucial year to strengthen strategic partnerships, seek geopolitical concessions, and create structures that enhance India's national security? In geopolitics, national glory is not necessarily an enduring outcome.

The second important challenge pertains to optics and framing. Is New Delhi making friends during this diplomatic high or is it offending more than befriending? Some of the language that emanates from New Delhi in response to western or the U.S.'s statements/criticisms could be construed as needlessly offensive. While riding high on diplomatic successes, being subtle in one's assertions has far more utility, notwithstanding the domestic political uses of harsh foreign policy assertions. Indian diplomacy needs to adopt the language of finesse and authority rather than that of aggression. Confident nations need not talk like reactionaries.

Third, balancing opposites has its limits. If you play all sides, you might not end up making strong strategic partnerships that should come to your aid if and when something major goes wrong such as a future conflict with China. While bridging the divide in world politics is a noble task, indecisiveness might not yield lasting partnerships.

Finally, there is always a danger of governments using diplomatic highs such as this towards domestic political ends rather than for geopolitical objectives. So, will New Delhi utilise 2023 to prepare for '2024' or to strengthen the country's place in the comity of nations?

The hardships of a career in Ayurvedic practice

G.L. Krishna

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Practice does not seem to be a feasible career option for most Ayurveda graduates. For a few idealists who consider this option, the hardships awaiting them are many. Despite the publicity campaigns to promote Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy (AYUSH), the fact is that there is a trust-deficit in these systems. For understandable reasons, Ayurveda is not the medical system of first choice for many people. "(Even) Ayurveda practitioners don't seem to trust it fully," Prime Minister Narendra Modi had noted in his speech at the sixth World Ayurveda Congress, in November 2014.

A scepticism that has some basis

There is widespread scepticism in the public mind about the soundness of Ayurvedic theories and the fruitfulness of its practices. This scepticism is not altogether baseless. The Ayurveda establishment has failed to keep pace with the intellectual and scientific advances of the times. Archaic theories that are apt to arouse suspicion in the minds of educated patients are peddled as sophisticated dogmas. Treatments are made to escape straightforward experimental scrutiny because of their supposed rootedness in such theories. When theories are kept mystified, using them to downplay the demands for experimental verification of practices becomes rather easy. Thus, a major reason for the trust-deficit in Ayurveda is its diminished evidence-based quality.

That Ayurveda treatments are slow to heal is another common view that characterises the public image of Ayurveda. This view also warrants a careful study.

Ayurveda's thrust is on patient benefit and not merely on patient gratification. Real patient benefit would be sustainable as opposed to patient gratification which is momentary. Sustainability of treatments requires a gradual transition from illness to wellness. Sudden relief is deemed superficial and temporary. There is enough material in medical literature today to substantiate the prudence of this approach – at least, in principle. The popular view that Ayurvedic treatments are slow to heal is thus a half-truth. It can be corrected by appropriate patient education.

> Appropriate policy-making can solve many of the problems a well-meaning Ayurveda practitioner faces

A practitioner's ordeal

A novice who enters the field of Ayurvedic practice would be greeted with these difficult realities of public perception. As if this were not enough, he would soon discover that what has been generously handed over to him in his college training is a huge corpus of ancient medical wisdom, where only a part is practically usable. Given that Ayurveda does not have a vibrant ecosystem of science and research, the poor practitioner has to depend on himself to discover treatments and approaches that actually work. Sifting the usable parts from the obsolete ones requires prior experience, a knowledge of practice trends, and of course, a robust common sense. The process involves a lot of trial and error with patients and predictably leads to an erosion of the practitioner's reputation.

The practitioner's ordeal does not end here. After he arrives at a rough understanding of the conditions in which his treatments are likely to work, it would become clear that Ayurveda can be used safely and efficaciously only in about 60%-70% of primary-care illnesses. For the rest, patient interest would necessitate complementing Ayurveda with modern medicine. Most States prohibit the practice of modern medicine by Ayurveda graduates and, consequently, the practitioner finds himself crippled again. Fewer footfalls in his clinic would be the sad consequence. At this stage, the gratitude of loyal patients alongside a few unusual recoveries remain the sole incentives that keep him alive as a practitioner.

Even as a conscientious Ayurveda physician grapples with all these hardships, practitioners resorting to gimmickry and publicity have a field day. Using regular newspaper columns, television shows, and social media sites, they entrap gullible patients. The reticent counsels of decent Ayurveda physicians often get drowned in the cacophony of tall claims made by these charlatans. By supporting such gimmicks as "Ayurvedic astrology," the AYUSH establishment also implicitly lends support to their 'charlatanry'.

Focus on primary care

Appropriate policy-making can solve a lot of these problems that well-meaning Ayurveda practitioners face. Primary-care doctors are becoming an endangered species in India's health-care system. Rejuvenating primary care is a sine qua non if a country is to secure the health of its citizens. Ayurveda graduates can contribute enormously towards this rejuvenation if trained properly.

A proper training of Ayurveda graduates with a view to make them good primary-care doctors would involve two preparatory exercises. One, a vigorous evidence-based appraisal of Ayurvedic theories and practices in order to sift the usable from the obsolete; and two, a statutory decision to allow Ayurveda graduates to practise modern medicine in stipulated primary care areas. These are two reforms that would help create a workforce that can function effectively to meet the primary health-care needs of both urban and rural India. Ayurveda, science, and public welfare all stand to gain. What is needed is sincerity, straight-thinking, and some adventurism on the part of stakeholders.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Flu in the air

The report about rising cases related to influenza subtype A H3N2 (Page 1, March 5) is unsettling especially after we are just getting back to some semblance of normal life after the COVID-19 pandemic. To have another infectious viral disease is unpleasant news. Since the medical advice is to observe the same discipline as during the COVID-19 pandemic, it is advisable that governments use the communication apparatus already in place to spread awareness. Unlike in the West, there is not much awareness about having flu shots in India, which makes it extremely important to alert people about the symptoms of A H3N2.

Narendra Dani,
Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

Migrant labour

The 'decision' by migrant workers in Tamil Nadu to return to their native homes for Holi is a perfect ruse to escape. So, the assertion by a section of politicians that there is no threat to migrant workers is weak. I am from an industrial town and I know the ground reality. A majority of workers in the garment export industry may not return. The workers did not wait for trains that would take them straight to their States; they have taken short trips to get past the Tamil Nadu border from where they can take another train to reach home. All industrial sectors will be hit hard.

V. Lakshmanan,
Tirupur, Tamil Nadu

The pearl diver

The article ('Tamil Nadu in Focus' page), "The last of pearl divers from the ancient tradition of Korkai" (March 3), brought back memories of Suleiman, our recently retired caretaker, a pearl diver from Thoothukudi in his youth. As the Akbar in our non-denominational Amar-Akbar-Anthony household, he would be insistent in observing all the rituals when it came to cutting branches from our trees, digging graves for our pets, or saving snakes that had crawled in during the rains. That he was also a pearl diver made him a near mythic figure in our imagination. Arab traders have long come down to the coast to collect pearls for the Middle East. At the Gulisthan Palace Museum in Tehran, small mounds of seed pearls from India were displayed for us to touch. We were told that the Shah's children were allowed to play in the pearl mounds just as other children play in the sand. Sadly, our Akbar was addicted to smoking *beedies* and maintained that he had the lungs for them. With the rising of sectarian passions and the isolation caused by COVID-19, he decided to return to his roots. He tells us that he runs a small shop next to the local mosque. Pearl divers are obviously legends of our fabled past.

Geeta Doctor,
Chennai

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address.

Libya's outlook remains bleak

Talmiz Ahmad
is a former diplomat

On February 17, Libyans celebrated 12 years of the uprising that finally ended the rule of Muammar Gaddafi. Streets were festooned with flags and lights, with music performances and a military parade in Tripoli reflecting popular joy. Some even believed that the political nightmare engulfing the country for a decade could end this year with national elections.

This could be wishful thinking. Last year, on February 10, Libya had acquired the dubious distinction of having two prime ministers – marking the culmination of binaries that have defined the battle-scarred country since the fall of Gaddafi.

Since 2014, Libya has had two centres of power – the Government of National Accord (GNA) in Tripoli that claims executive authority, and the House of Representatives (HOR) in Tobruk that exercises legislative powers. Tripoli controls the north-west of the country, including the towns of Tripoli and Misrata, while Tobruk controls the east and the south.

In February 2022, the HOR declared that the term of the incumbent prime minister, Abdul Hamid Dbeibah, heading a Government of National Unity (GNU), was over and appointed former Interior Minister Fathi Bashaga in his place. But Mr. Dbeibah refused to give up his position, forcing Mr. Bashaga to function from the town of Sirte. In July and August, a frustrated Mr. Bashaga mounted a military attack on Tripoli to dislodge his rival, but was not successful.

Most Libyan politicians have amassed extraordinary wealth: while the economy, fed by oil revenues, is expected to grow by 18% this year, a third of Libyans live below the poverty line. A former UN special representative had described the situation as "redistributive kleptocracy."

Foreign competitions

The ideological competitions around the place of political Islam represented by the Muslim Brotherhood, that occurred in the early days of the Arab Spring, resonated strongly in Libya after Gaddafi's departure. Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) members Qatar and the UAE backed rival factions in the civil conflict – Qatar supported the Islamist government in Tripoli, while the UAE, backed by Egypt, backed the HOR in Tobruk.

To obtain a military settlement, from 2014, the UAE supported the Libyan strongman, General Khalifa Haftar, enabling him to bring Libya's eastern and southern territories under his control. From April 2019, he launched a major assault on Tripoli. The UAE backed the offensive with hundreds of drone strikes, weaponry and jet fuel, and funded Sudanese and Russian mercenaries as part of his forces.

This offensive was defeated with the entry of Turkey. In November 2019, Turkey signed an agreement with the beleaguered Tripoli administration and provided it with drones, air defence systems and mercenaries from pro-Turkish militia groups in Syria. Mr. Haftar was forced to retreat back to the east.

A new plan to break the political impasse has emerged recently. On February 28, the UN special representative for Libya, Abdoulaye Bathily, noting the "major legitimacy crisis" in the country and widespread popular frustration, said he would be setting up a "high-level steering panel." This would bring together relevant stakeholders who would adopt a legal framework for elections, address matters relating to code of conduct and election security, and prepare a time-bound road map for elections to be held within this year.

> Libya's politicians continue to ensure that no initiative emerges that would unify their country and give its people a democratic order

Outlook

However, there is widespread scepticism about the success of this initiative. The HOR in Tobruk has rejected it on the ground that setting up a dialogue committee is its prerogative and said it will not work with foreign parties. Others have noted that Mr. Bathily has provided no details of the composition of the election panel and that such plans have gone nowhere in the past.

The role of external players is expected to be crucial, though there is much uncertainty about their posture. In a dramatic move, the UAE has abandoned its earlier support for the Tobruk administration and has reached out to Mr. Dbeibah in Tripoli. To ingratiate himself with his new sponsors, Mr. Dbeibah has not included Islamists in his government and has offered the UAE the contracts it had obtained in the Gaddafi period in energy, construction and telecom. The UAE has also built close ties with Mr. Dbeibah's interior minister and even some militant groups.

Qatar on its part has quickly shifted away from Tripoli and made overtures to Tobruk, establishing ties with Mr. Haftar and his sons and other officers from the earlier anti-Gaddafi groups, and members of the HOR. Qatar has also maintained links with Mr. Bashaga, who is being supported by Libya's Islamists. Since October last year, there has been a thaw in Qatar-Egypt ties, with Qatar ironically being viewed in Cairo as an influential player to dilute the Islamist challenge from Tripoli.

Turkey has shed its affiliation with political Islam and built ties with the UAE, Saudi Arabia and Egypt; but it retains an aggressive posture in the East Mediterranean. Russia, with mercenaries from the Wagner Group, remains entrenched in Libya, viewing the oil-rich country as a valuable base to expand its influence in Africa.

Libya's politicians, affiliated with diverse foreign groups, ensure that no initiative emerges that would unify their country and give its people a democratic order and a larger share of the national wealth. There are in fact credible prospects for the revival of military conflict.

The battle for Seemanchal

The BJP is trying to win over a stronghold of the Mahagathbandhan

STATE OF PLAY

Amit Bhelari
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The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is trying hard to make inroads into Seemanchal, currently the stronghold of the Mahagathbandhan. The importance of the region can be understood from the fact that Union Home Minister Amit Shah launched his Lok Sabha campaign in Bihar in September 2022 from Seemanchal and has visited Bihar thrice after the Janata Dal (United) snapped ties with the BJP in August 2022.

In response, the Mahagathbandhan, which comprises seven parties, held a rally in Purnea district of Seemanchal on February 25 at the Rangbhoomi Maidan, the same place from where Mr. Shah launched his campaign.

Seemanchal, located in north Bihar, comprises four districts: Purnea, Katihar, Kishanganj and Araria. In the 2019 elections, the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) won three seats and the Congress won one in the region. At the time, the JD(U) was part of the NDA. With the JD(U) walking out of the NDA alliance, the Katihar and Purnea parliamentary seats are now with the JD(U), Araria belongs to the BJP, and Kishanganj belongs to the Congress.

The four districts represent 24 Assembly constituencies. Seemanchal is therefore important for the 2025 Assembly polls too. For the JD(U) and the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), pitted against the BJP, the high share of Muslims (47%) could be politically beneficial. But now the BJP is focused on not only consolidating Hindu votes but also wooing the Pasmanda Muslims, who constitute over 80% of the Muslim population in Bihar. This is a cause of worry for the Mahagathbandhan. The Pasmanda Muslims are the weaker sections of Muslims who converted to Islam from the backward classes and Dalit groups long ago. The community, with poor socioeconomic conditions and no political representation, has been demanding Scheduled Caste (SC) status for a long time. The Sachar Committee Report noted that the conditions of Dalit Muslims and Dalit Christians has not improved and the Ranganath Mishra Commission recommended delinking SC status from religion.

Apart from its outreach to the Pasmanda Muslims, the BJP has also alleged that there are serious issues with the caste census, launched by JD (U) chief Nitish Kumar. The party says the format in which the exercise is being carried out looks "flawed" and could potentially "tamper with the citizenship register." It alleges that the process ignores the threat of counting illegal Bangladeshi migrants and Rohingya as Indian citizens. Seemanchal is a border region, with Nepal next door and Bangladesh not far away.

While the Mahagathbandhan has been saying that the BJP is resorting to a divide-and-rule policy, Mr. Shah has warned the people in Valmikinagar of West Champaran district and Patna that a victory of the 'grand alliance' would ensure the return of a "Jungle Raj." The BJP has planned many rallies in the days to come in the Seemanchal region.

The Mahagathbandhan has to deal with not only the BJP challenge, but also contend with the Owaisi factor. The presence of All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) leader Asaduddin Owaisi could benefit the BJP as the AIMIM is expected to dent the vote bank of the Mahagathbandhan as it has done in previous elections and regions. The people of Seemanchal believe that Mr. Owaisi stands for the Muslim community. This was borne out by the 2020 Assembly polls when the AIMIM won five seats in Seemanchal.

"Seemanchal is considered the stronghold of the Mahagathbandhan, whereas for the BJP, it is a politically weaker area," said Sanjay Kumar, political analyst based in Bihar. "The BJP is trying hard to galvanise support for the party and polarise the region, which has poor people in large numbers. It wants to make inroads into the region, which has a high concentration of the Muslim population. Moreover, it will try to set the agenda before the Lok Sabha poll that it is the party which can save the country and Hindutva."

Whether the BJP's strategy of consolidating Hindu votes while also appealing to Pasmanda Muslims for their votes succeeds remains to be seen. But the Mahagathbandhan has to contend with both external and internal challenges. Against the backdrop of rumours about a growing rift between the JD(U) and RJD, Mr. Kumar and Tejashwi Yadav emphasised that the 'grand alliance' is intact in Bihar and is ready to stop the juggernaut of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Patterns of violence in the Kashmir Valley

There has been a spike in incidents of targeted killings against religious minorities and migrants

DATA POINT

The Hindu Data Team

Targeted killings against Kashmiri Pandits and minorities in the Kashmir Valley have been on the rise. The death of Kashmiri Pandit and bank guard Sanjay Sharma in Pulwama, late last month, was the latest in a series of attacks against the minority community. These attacks have increased fear in the community and raised concerns about the lack of security. Sharma's killing was the second such incident against Kashmiri Pandits in Pulwama, the first being Janki Nath's death in 1990 at the peak of militancy. Sharma's attacker was killed in a follow-up operation. However, this has done little to allay the fears of the community. All the major political parties in the Valley have condemned the attacks.

In 2022, terrorist attacks left 29 civilians dead, including three local Pandits, three other Hindus and eight non-local labourers in Jammu and Kashmir. The unrest led to 5,500 Pandit employees moving out from the Valley. Since 2022, India has witnessed 315 incidents involving violent murders. Of these, Jammu and Kashmir accounts for 160 incidents followed by the Maoist insurgency which was responsible for 126 incidents.

Data from the South Asia Terrorism portal show that violence has been on the rise in the Valley, following a period of relative calm between 2011 and 2016 when a total of 562 incidents related to killings took place. In the last six years, however, there have been 948 incidents, close to a 70% rise. **Chart 1** shows the number of incidents since 2010 that resulted in fatalities. A killing-related incident is a terrorism-related event which results in at least one death.

After 2016, there has been a spike in the deaths of both civilians and security forces in comparison to the early 2010s. However, deaths among both these sections declined since 2018. SATP records show 30 civilian deaths in 2022. A bulk of them were killings of Kashmiri Pandits and migrants, revealing a dangerous pattern of terrorists seeking to target religious minorities in the Union Territory. **Chart 2** shows the number of civilians and security personnel who were killed between 2010 and 2022.

These attacks have continued despite the administration claiming to provide adequate security to the residents. Casualties among security forces have also occurred during operations against the perpetrators. For instance, an Army jawan died in the operation to flush out the killers of Sharma.

Until 2007, civilian deaths formed a greater proportion of fatalities. In 2008, deaths among security personnel rose and were higher than civilian deaths.

South Kashmir, in particular, has become a hotbed for terror-related civilian deaths. The district-wise share of civilian deaths since 2000 reveals that more such fatalities are taking place in South Kashmir, and Budgam and Srinagar in central Kashmir. For example, in 2022, 27% of all civilian deaths occurred in Shopian district of South Kashmir, where the share was zero until 2006.

In the 2000s, civilian deaths were concentrated in Anantnag, Baramulla, Doda and Srinagar. During the calmer period in the early to mid-2010s, Baramulla continued to see a high number of civilian deaths. These peaked in 2017 at 37% of the total deaths. This was also the time when South Kashmir began to see a rise in civilian deaths, particularly in Pulwama.

From 2017 onwards, attacks on civilians were mostly restricted to South Kashmir. Kulgam and Shopian districts experienced the most civilian deaths, accounting for 20% and 27%, respectively. **Chart 3** shows the district-wise share of civilian deaths in Kashmir between 2000 and 2022.

Turmoil in the Valley

The data for charts were sourced from the South Asian Terrorism Portal. Data show that violence has been on the rise in the Valley following a period of relative calm

Fractured peace: Bullet-ridden window glass after an encounter with security forces that left two terrorists dead. PTI

Chart 1 | The chart shows the number of incidents since 2010 that resulted in fatalities

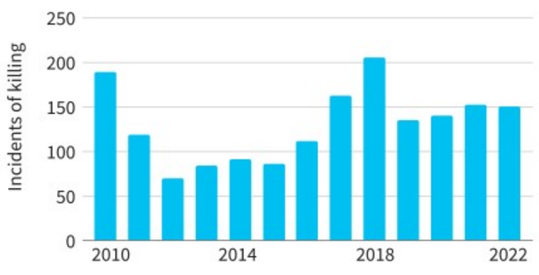


Chart 2 | The chart shows the number of civilians and security personnel who were killed between 2010 and 2022

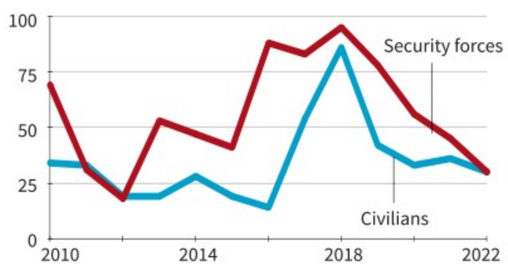


Chart 3 | The chart shows district-wise share of civilian deaths in Kashmir between 2000 and 2022. Figures in %

District	Region	'00				'05					'10					'15					'20		2022
Budgam	Central Kashmir	3	8	4	3	10	4	1	0	0	2	0	3	5	5	7	0	7	0	2	0	6	3	17
Ganderbal		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	4	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Srinagar		10	11	6	7	5	12	13	9	13	2	15	13	26	11	4	5	0	6	7	10	15	33	10
Doda	Jammu	12	16	11	8	12	10	12	13	25	10	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jammu		1	1	10	1	1	0	1	1	8	0	0	0	5	0	18	5	0	6	1	5	0	6	0
Kathua		0	0	1	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	11	11	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kishtwar		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	13	8	9	6	5	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0
Poonch		7	9	10	11	13	3	6	2	2	15	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rajouri		6	9	13	12	10	11	4	12	2	6	6	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
Ramban		0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Reasi		0	1	0	2	0	0	0	2	8	10	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Samba		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Udhampur		7	5	8	8	7	14	8	0	2	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Bandipora	North Kashmir	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	5	3	2	3	3	0	5	0	0	0	2	8	2	9	3	3
Baramulla		14	13	10	11	9	15	25	22	8	12	27	32	21	26	18	37	14	0	12	2	9	14	7
Kupwara		10	9	7	11	6	4	3	6	6	4	3	10	0	0	0	5	14	6	1	5	3	0	3
Anantnag	South Kashmir	25	13	12	8	14	13	13	1	0	6	0	0	26	0	4	5	14	24	3	12	12	11	0
Kulgam		0	0	0	2	0	0	3	2	0	0	15	0	5	0	4	11	21	13	20	17	24	14	20
Pulwama		4	6	7	12	13	15	9	17	3	12	9	16	5	16	29	21	21	26	19	26	15	14	3
Shopian		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	10	3	3	0	11	7	0	7	19	24	19	6	3	27

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO MARCH 6, 1973

No decision yet on book imports through STC

New Delhi, March 5: The book trade and educational institutions are perturbed over reports of a possible take-over of book imports by the State Trading Corporation, but enquiries in official circles here show that the Government is yet to make up its mind on this question. The STC, according to authoritative sources, has not been asked so far to prepare itself for the take-over, but this is not a definite pointer as there have been cases in the past when the STC has been intimated after a decision was taken. The question of canalisation of book imports has been under consideration for quite some time and with the new import policy scheduled to be announced this month-end, reports have gained currency that books will be among the items that will be canalised under the new policy. Malpractices by trade are called as argument in favour of canalisation. There have been allegations that certain traders misuse the foreign exchange allotted to them by importing pornographic books. This is however strongly refuted by the traders who contend that pornographic books are mostly smuggled into the country and there have been malpractices. There is however a section of view in the Government that canalisation will ensure better utilisation of the foreign exchange allotted for book imports.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO MARCH 6, 1923

German bayonets in Calcutta

Calcutta, March 5: Attention had been directed in Calcutta recently to hawkers selling splitters imported from Germany consisting of a sword, bayonet attached by a screw to an iron scabbard, the purpose of which is to split wood, but by the removal of the screw the bayonet is left free. The Bengal Government last week declared the unlicensed possession of bayonets to be illegal and in the Legislative Council to-day the Government stated that 18,000 bayonets had been imported, of which 8,500 had been recovered. The Police were taking steps to confiscate the remainder, but some might have reached other parts of India. Following the enquiry into the importation of Germany bayonets in this province, the Calcutta Police are busy making investigation into the import of poisonous from Germany into Calcutta.

From Page One

Police verification delays affect Kashmiris

Rasheed (name changed to protect identity) from Srinagar was appointed a junior engineer in 2021 by the Jal Shakti Department. However, the family's celebrations over his selection were short-lived. Police verification, mandatory before joining a government job, was not issued by the CID. Mr. Rasheed's elder sister said he had never been named in a first information report (FIR). However, his paternal uncle was among those who crossed into Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (POK) for arms training in the 1990s. "We have never seen him [the paternal uncle]. We asked the CID to scan our phones and check if we ever had any connection with him." She said she had written to the Additional Director-General of Police, CID, R.R. Swain, and Director-General of Police, Dilbag Singh, but failed to get any positive response.

Hundreds in Kashmir are also being denied passports for "security reasons". It has been a Kafkaesque experience for Amir (name changed), who worked as a scientist in Kashmir University until 2022. He received two show-cause notices in two days, one on January 31, 2023 and another on February 1, 2023, from the Regional Passport Office in Srinagar. In the first letter, Mr. Amir was asked to "submit a fresh application with correct details and a proper explanation regarding the circumstances under which you suppressed the material information in your passport application." The next day, another official letter said his passport had been impounded. "I am not even told what kind of information I have hidden. I do not figure in any FIR," Mr. Amir said. He took the matter to the J&K High Court that stayed the show-cause notices.

Journalists have been facing an even stiffer police verification regime for their passports. Since 2019, several Kashmiri journalists have been stopped at airports after finding themselves on the 'No fly list'. Kashmiri photojournalist Sana Irshad Mattoo from Srinagar was disallowed from boarding a flight in Delhi on her way to receive the Pulitzer Prize for her COVID-19 coverage in 2022. No reason was, however, given.

Parties write to PM against use of agencies

"We hope you would agree that India is still a democratic country. The blatant misuse of Central agencies against the members of the Opposition appears to suggest that we have transitioned from being a democracy to an autocracy," the letter says. Mr. Sisodia's arrest, the letter says, has "enraged" people across the country and is cited worldwide as an example of a "political witch-hunt". The name of K. Kavitha, Mr. Rao's daughter and Telangana MLC, has been mentioned in a chargesheet filed by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with a money laundering case.

The letter says that the Central investigation agencies go "slow on cases against Opposition politicians who join the BJP", citing the examples of Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and former Trinamool leader Suvendu Adhikari. In contrast, the political parties said, cases against the Opposition leaders are spiralling, and often the cases are filed coinciding with the elections. The parties also accused the Central agencies of "misplaced priorities".

"The misuse of Central agencies and constitutional offices like that of the Governor to settle scores outside the electoral battlefield is strongly condemnable as it does not bode well for our democracy," the letter reads.

Indian man urinates on co-traveller on flight

The police registered a case under Sections 510 and 294 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Sections 22 and 23 of the Aircraft Rules.

Nearly six hours into the flight, which took off from New York at 8 p.m. on Saturday, Mr. Vohra walked to the first-class section looking for the restroom and appeared to be "disoriented", following which the crew directed him to the business class lavatory but instead he emptied his bladder on a co-traveller. "Mr. Sutton called the flight attendants to complain about the incident who then immediately intervened and moved Mr. Vohra back to his seat (24B) to which he was restricted for the remainder of the flight," the complaint reads. The crew then brought the incident to the notice of the Captain, who sent a message requesting law enforcement to meet the flight on arrival. The complaint says that Mr. Vohra continued to be in an intoxicated state at the time of the handover to the CISF.

According to another complaint filed before the Station House Officer, Delhi Police, the airline's chief security officer wrote that the offender refused to listen to crew instructions, was repeatedly arguing with them, was unwilling to be seated and was "continuously endangering the safety of the crew and the aircraft". A senior DGCA official told *The Hindu* that the airline took timely action against the offender, and has also informed the regulator that it has initiated an internal inquiry under the Civil Aviation Requirements on dealing with unruly passengers, according to which a passenger can be banned for three months to a lifetime depending on the severity of the offence. Such an inquiry could also lead to the airline recommending other carriers to ban the offender from their flights.

Away from the spotlight, India holds conference of global intelligence chiefs

Counterterrorism, radicalisation, drugs trafficking discussed at the Raisina Security Dialogue on March 1 which saw participation of officials from 26 countries, including U.K., France and Japan

Dinakar Peri
Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni during the inauguration of the Raisina Dialogue, in New Delhi on Thursday. The Security Dialogue was held a day before. ANI/ PIB

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and National Security Adviser Ajit Doval addressed the conference

Amid the G-20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting and ahead of the Raisina Dialogue, India quietly held the second conference of intelligence and security chiefs and top officials from around the world, called the Raisina Security Dialogue, on March 1 which saw participation from over 26 countries, confirmed multiple sources.

"India is trying to make its presence felt in bringing together global intelligence agencies for exchanges on issues of common concern. The focus of the discussions was largely on global security which encompassed counterterrorism, radicalisation, drugs trafficking, and illegal arms smuggling, among others," an official source with knowledge of the matter said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and National Security Adviser Ajit Doval addressed the conference, which is modelled on the lines of the Munich Security Conference, the 59th edition of which took place from February 17 to 19, and Singapore's Shangri-La Dialogue.

U.S. absent

It was a broad-based discussion and shows the global confidence in India, said an official from one of the participating countries.

While the U.S. was absent, intelligence chiefs from the U.K., France, Japan and Bahrain were among those present, the source stated.

Sources said Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Director William Burns was in India two weeks earlier, from February 16 to 17. He also travelled to Sri Lanka recently, they added.

Mr. Burns, who had missed the conference in April 2022 as well, last visited New Delhi in September 2021 to discuss the challenges arising from the Taliban takeover of Kabul, which also coincided with the visit of Russian Security Council chief General Nikolai Patrushev.

Conducted by R&AW

The security conference is organised by the country's external intelligence agency, the Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW) and the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS) that reports to Mr. Doval.

The conference was held for the first time in April 2022, a day before the start of Raisina Dialogue, India's flagship conference on "geopolitics and geo-strategy" organised by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in collaboration with Observer Research Foundation (ORF). The eighth edition this year was held from March 2-4.

The conference comes a year after the war in Ukraine that is still ongoing and the global attention fixed on it, while India has been flagging other global issues including Afghanistan.

Deep differences over Ukraine between the U.S.-led Western countries and the Russia-China combine thwarted India's attempts to bring out a joint statement at the G-20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting last week with New Delhi issuing a Chair's Summary and Outcome Document.

Nations secure pact to protect marine life in the high seas

Associated Press
WASHINGTON

> Comprehensive protection of endangered species and habitats is now finally possible on more than 40% of the Earth's surface
>
> **STEFFI LEMKE**
> Environment Minister of Germany

For the first time, United Nations (UN) members have agreed on a unified treaty to protect biodiversity in the high seas. The treaty agreement concluded two weeks of talks in New York.

An updated framework to protect marine life in the regions outside national boundary waters, known as the high seas, had been in discussions for more than 20 years, but previous efforts to reach an agreement had repeatedly stalled. The unified agreement treaty, which applies to nearly half the planet's surface, was reached late Saturday.

Nichola Clark, an oceans expert at the Pew Charitable Trusts who observed the talks in New York, called the long-awaited treaty text "a once-in-a-generation opportunity to protect the oceans – a major win for biodiversity".

New body

The treaty will create a new body to manage conservation of ocean life and establish marine protected areas in the high seas. Ms. Clark said that is critical to achieve the UN Biodiversity Conference's pledge to protect 30% of the planet's waters, as well as its land, for conservation.

The crafting of the treaty represents "a historic and overwhelming success for international marine protection", said Steffi Lemke, Germany's Environment Minister.

"For the first time, we are getting a binding agreement for the high seas, which until now have hardly been protected," Ms. Lemke said. "Comprehensive protection of endangered species and habitats is now finally possible on more than 40% of the Earth's surface." The treaty also establishes ground rules for conducting environmental impact assessments for commercial activities in the oceans.

"It means all activities planned for the high seas need to be looked at, though not all will go through a full assessment," said Jessica Battle, an oceans governance expert at the Worldwide Fund for Nature. "This treaty will help to knit together the different regional treaties to be able to address threats and concerns across species' ranges," Ms. Battle said.

CBI is forcing Sisodia to sign papers with false charges: AAP

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Sunday claimed the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) was "mentally torturing" senior party leader Manish Sisodia, arrested in a corruption case related to the now-scrapped excise policy, and pressuring him to sign papers containing false charges.

AAP chief spokesperson Saurabh Bharadwaj said, "The CBI has arrested him [Mr. Sisodia] in a fabricated case. Due to the lack of evidence, the CBI's game is now to get Mr. Sisodia to admit to all the baseless allegations through torture."

On Saturday, a Delhi court extended the former Minister's CBI custody by two days.

Special judge M.K. Nagpal directed the CBI not to repeatedly ask him the same questions after Mr. Sisodia termed it "mental harassment".

Senior AAP leader and MLA Atishi said the CBI had failed to prove any corruption charges against Mr. Sisodia and was therefore trying to extract a confession to please their political bosses in the BJP.

Reacting to the allegations, Delhi BJP spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor said that Mr. Sisodia's arrest had "shaken the entire AAP", which is now trying to portray him as a "political victim".

Acquittal of three accused in Hathras case shows 'shoddy' probe by U.P. Police: Congress

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Sunday attacked the BJP over the acquittal of three persons accused in the Hathras rape-murder case and alleged that it had exposed the "weak and shoddy" investigation done by the Uttar Pradesh Police and later by the CBI.

Dolly Sharma

A special court in Hathras had on Thursday sentenced the main accused in the case to life imprisonment, while acquitting the three other accused.

Addressing a press conference at the AICC headquarters here, Congress leader Dolly Sharma said "the heinous crime in Hathras and then the government's role in this matter has exposed the BJP's 'Beti Bachao' slogan".

"The crime of depriving a minor girl of the Dalit community of justice has been committed by the BJP, which keeps on giving the slogan of supporting everyone," she said.

The Congress leader alleged that as soon as the matter came to light, the government machinery was busy giving it the form of a "conspiracy" to save the accused and suppress the matter.

"The acquittal of three out of the four accused once again proves our allegation that the police and the administration acted with serious negligence in the initial investigation, witnesses and evidence were tampered with, pressure was created in every way and a weak prosecution was presented before the court which benefited the accused and denied justice to the victim," Ms. Sharma alleged.

India close to 'Hindu rate of growth', says ex-RBI chief

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Sounding a note of caution, former Reserve Bank Governor Raghuram Rajan said that India was "dangerously close" to the 'Hindu rate of growth' in view of the subdued private sector investment, high interest rates and slowing global growth.

Mr. Rajan said that sequential slowdown in the quarterly growth, as revealed by the latest estimate of the national income released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) last month, was worrying.

The 'Hindu rate of growth' is a term describing low Indian economic growth rates from the 1950s to the 1980s, which averaged around 4%.

"Of course, the optimists will point to the upward revisions in past GDP numbers, but I am worried about the sequential slowdown. With the private sector unwilling to invest, the RBI still hiking rates, and global growth likely to slow later in the year, I am not sure where we find additional growth momentum," Mr. Rajan said.

The key question is what Indian growth will be in fiscal 2023-24, Mr. Rajan said, adding, "The RBI projects an even lower 4.2% for the last quarter of this fiscal. At this point, the average annual growth of the October-December quarter relative to the similar pre-pandemic quarter three years ago is 3.7%."

"This is dangerously close to our old Hindu rate of growth! We must do better," Mr. Rajan said.

The government, he said, was doing its bit on infrastructure investment but its manufacturing thrust was yet to pay dividends.

Taking the bull by the horns: CCTVs, *Jhatka* machines to keep stray cattle off field in U.P.

A.M. Jigeesh
AGRA/ FIROZABAD

The Uttar Pradesh government recently announced projects such as a cow sanctuary to address the increasing menace of stray cattle in the State, but farmers are using innovative methods such as closed circuit TV (CCTV) cameras and electric fences to protect their crops.

Major menace: Farmers say that there could be at least 400 to 500 stray cattle in one village. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

In some villages, stray cattle roam around in groups of 400 to 500 and they don't just eat or damage the crops but also cause accidents on the streets.

Rajveer Lawaniya, president of the Bharatiya Kisan Union's Agra district committee, recently installed CCTV cameras around his 150-acre potato farm. He also built wired fencing around the farm, spending around ₹5,000 an acre. "Me and some of my neighbouring farmers have installed CCTV cameras to track the movement of stray cattle. Some people are also erecting electric fencing around their farms. It is an additional expense for us," he said.

Mr. Lawaniya said the cow shelters, which were opened after farmers put pressure on the government, were not functioning properly. The government is giving just ₹30 per head of cattle. But we spend around ₹500 per day for a cow. So how will these shelters function with this paltry sum," he asked.

Keeping vigil

Vinay Singh, a farmer near Firozabad, bought a *Jhatka* machine, an equipment that functions using direct current to scare the stray cattle away.

"*Jhatka* machine is a dangerous one. Farmers, agriculture workers or their family members may themselves get injured by this. One machine costs between ₹3,500 and ₹5,000. But we have no other option. Farmers either have to employ someone in the night to protect the farms or keep a vigil by themselves in the night," Mr. Singh said.

Farmers say that there could be at least 400 to 500 stray cattle in one village.

"They start roaming around on the fields at night. According to our information, more than 100 people have died in Agra in the past few years in accidents due to stray cattle," Mr. Lawaniya said.

The situation is not different in other parts of the State. "The government should give subsidy for fencing. *Neelgais* [antelopes] damage even these fences. The *goshala* (cow shelters) model is a failure. The government should make efforts to improve the system of cow shelters. More than what they eat, the cattle damage the crops. It is a national loss," said Jitender Singh Hudda, a farmers' leader from Shamli.

‘We are not panicking about the Adani projects in Sri Lanka’

‘The speculation on the stock market about the Adani Group is not a new thing, this happens all over the world ... for us, there is absolutely nothing to worry because it is a transparent process and a government-to- government kind of project ... we have no complaint, so far, because the Adani Group has been investing and going on with the project,’ says Sri Lankan Foreign Minister

INTERVIEW

Ali Sabry

Suhasini Haidar

Sri Lanka’s economic recovery, trade, investment and development partnership were at the top of the agenda as Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Ali Sabry met External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar in Delhi on Saturday. Speaking to *The Hindu* earlier, Mr. Sabry said his government’s focus is on the International Monetary Fund (IMF) bailout package expected to be decided at the Spring Session in April, for which China’s written assurances are still needed. He said that despite the company’s recent troubles, he is confident that the Adani Group will complete its projects in Sri Lanka, which were negotiated as “government-to-government” kind of deals.

What was on the agenda for talks with Mr. Jaishankar?

[India and Sri Lanka] have been traditionally very good friends, but during the last year or so, India had really come to our rescue. India provided us a lifeline which allowed us to stay afloat during a very difficult time.

We can now see some resurgence in our economy. We are not out of the woods, but stabilised right now. So right now, what we are interested in with India is how to collaborate and how to integrate the Indian economy, particularly with South India, in terms of investment, people-to-people connection, more tourists coming in. It’s a win-win situation for all.

China has not yet given those written assurances required for the IMF to take the next step on Sri Lanka’s $2.9-billion bailout package. Is that something that is going to become a problem?

Yes, we have been in discussion with the IMF [about the package]. The Chinese government has, in principle, told the IMF that they would like Sri Lanka to get the Extended Fund Facility (EFF) and move on with it, but that is not compatible with the

SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

IMF requirements. So we are trying to narrow that gap. And hopefully, they will also come around and we are very hopeful during March, we should be able to unlock the EFF from IMF.

Are India’s projects in Trincomalee, which have been pending since 2018, now been given an impetus?

Yes, I think there has been impetus all round. We have seen that Indian tourists are coming, investors are coming, some of the big Indian companies have already started their projects on renewable energy, wind power, as well as the port development.

With the Trinco projects, those are in the pipeline and we do know that this is the time we have to materialise this promise given a long, long period of time ago.

One of those big Indian companies is the Adani Group. Are you confident that the Adani companies involved in the Colombo port terminal project and northern Sri Lanka wind power project can complete these projects, given the troubles they have been in over the past month?

We are very, very confident that they will do it and we also understand they do have footfall in their airports and ports, both in India and outside, in railways, in renewable energy, and they are seen as a big company.

This speculation on the stock market is not a new thing, this happens all over the world. So, we are not panicking at all.

One of the allegations was that it was the pressure from the Prime Minister’s Office (PMO) in India that actually led to the wind power project being given to Adani Group. Do you think the Adani Group comes with the confidence, the backing of the PMO and that is why it gets these projects?

Not really. We were keen on an Indian investor to come in, so who the Indian investor was for the Indian government and the authorities to decide and choose and send it to us. And then we will have our own feasibility and fact-finding, and if we are happy, we will take it.

We have no complaint, so far, because they have been investing, they are going on with the project. And they have been successful both in India and in the region. So why not? A big name like that comes in. And there are a lot of other countries and other companies could be envious of them.

For us, there is absolutely nothing to worry because it is a transparent process and a government-to-government (G2G) kind of a project.

And then of course, G2G doesn’t mean that the government gets involved and is doing business, it means the government identifies the entities. So that is the process which had been followed in the Adanis coming into Sri Lanka.

(Full interview on https://bit.ly/AliSabry)

More support arrives for NPP to form govt. in Meghalaya

UDP and PDF, with 13 seats together, extend support to Conrad Sangma, who also has assurances from the BJP, the HSPDP and two Independents. MLAs-elect set to take the oath of office today

Rahul Karmakar
GUWAHATI

The drama over the formation of a government in Meghalaya ended on Sunday evening after two regional parties with 13 seats between them extended support to the National People’s Party (NPP).

The United Democratic Party (UDP) and the People’s Democratic Front (PDF) were among six parties, including the Congress and the Trinamool Congress, that tried to cobble together an alternative government on Friday.

These parties met in the State capital Shillong soon after NPP chief Conrad K. Sangma led a 29-member team of newly elected members to meet Governor Phagu Chauhan and stake claim to form the government. Mr. Sangma had the backing of 29 MLAs-elect – 26 of the NPP, two of the BJP and an Independent – but claimed he had 32 with him. The other three turned out to be another Independent and two MLAs-elect of the Hill State People’s Democratic Party (HSPDP). The two had slipped out of the meeting of the “non-NPP, non-BJP” parties and met Mr. Sangma with their letters of support.

CM-designate Conrad Sangma receives ‘Letter of Support’ from UDP and PDF to form a government in Meghalaya on Sunday. PTI

On Sunday, UDP president Metbah Lyngdoh and the two MLAs-elect of the PDF – Gavin M. Mylliem and Banteidor Lyngdoh – submitted their letters of support to Mr. Sangma.

The UDP, which emerged as the second-largest party with 11 seats, and the PDF were part of the NPP-led Meghalaya Democratic Alliance government from 2018 to 2023.

The NPP chose not to disclose if the UDP and PDF would be accommodated in the new government. “Mr. Sangma is expected to announce the Council of Ministers and complete other formalities after the MLAs-elect take the oath of office tomorrow [Monday],” a party spokesperson said.

Softened stand

Late on Saturday night, HSPDP president K.P. Pangniang softened the party stand after asking its MLAs-elect – Methodius Dkhar and Shakliar Warjri – to withdraw their support to the NPP for forming the new government in Meghalaya. He reminded journalists that the HSPDP had during the election campaign said it would be a part of any government. “We are going to be a part of the NPP-led government if the move to install an alternative government minus the NPP and BJP fails,” he said.

His statement followed the resolution of the party’s local units in Mawshynrut and Mawthadraishan, the constituencies in West Khasi Hills district from where Mr. Dkhar and Mr. Warjri won, respectively, to back their representatives. These units said they respect the decision of the duo and advised some NGOs not to “mix community sentiments with politics”.

The NGOs on Saturday protested the two HSPDP legislators’ decision to support the NPP-led formation and burnt their effigies.

Meghalaya’s Chief Ministers for the last 13 years have been from the Garo community. Mr. Conrad Sangma and his predecessor Mukul Sangma belong to the Garo community.

Mr. Mukul of the Trinamool Congress had taken the lead in trying to form an alternative government.

Opposition leaders voice support for Sibal’s ‘Insaf’

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Several Opposition leaders, including Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and his Delhi counterpart, Arvind Kejriwal, on Sunday expressed support for Rajya Sabha member Kapil Sibal’s newly announced platform ‘Insaaf’ to fight for justice.

Mr. Sibal on Saturday said he was floating the new platform against the “injustice prevailing in the country”, and called upon everyone, including Chief Ministers and leaders of Opposition parties, to support him in his endeavour.

Bihar Deputy Chief Minister and RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav and former Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray also expressed support for ‘Insaf’.

Mr. Kejriwal appealed to people, including lawyers, to join ‘Insaaf’. “This is a very important initiative of Kapil Sibal *sahib*. I appeal to everyone to join this and we will fight injustice together,” he said in a tweet.

Mr. Baghel tweeted, “What can be better than everyone uniting against injustice! This was also the basis of the Bharat Jodo Yatra. We all welcome this initiative.”

Intricacies of Rahul’s remarks lost on BJP: Cong.

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Sunday said that the intricacies of Rahul Gandhi’s remarks at his Cambridge University lecture were lost on the BJP and noted that he had defined key differences between the state-controlled corporation system of China and the pressing need for democratic nations such as India to ramp up production mechanisms.

The Opposition party’s reaction came after the BJP accused Mr. Gandhi of maligning India on foreign soil while praising China.

Tagging a short video of Mr. Gandhi’s remarks at the university, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said on Twitter, “Rahul Gandhi clearly defines in his Cambridge lecture the key differences between a state-controlled corporation system as there is in China and the pressing need for democratic nations like India to ramp up production mechanisms – the intricacies of which are lost on the BJP.” “Whereas PM Modi simply gushes over his ‘close friendship’ with the Chinese,” he said, tagging a video montage of Mr. Modi

Jairam Ramesh

talking about China.

Mr. Gandhi’s remarks at the university that Indian democracy was under attack and several politicians, including himself, were under surveillance, has triggered a political slugfest, with the BJP accusing him of denigrating India and asking if Mr. Gandhi was working as an agent on the payroll of an agency to bring down the country. It accused Mr. Gandhi of dissuading investors from investing in India at a time when the world was seeing the country as a “bright spot” and foreign firms are leaving China to do business here.

Referencing to a decline in manufacturing in democratic countries such as India and the U.S. in recent years as production shifted to China, Mr. Gandhi had said the shift had produced mass inequality and anger which needed urgent attention and dialogue.

J&K HC allows PDP’s Parra to take oath as DDC member

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

The J&K High Court has allowed Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) leader Waheed-ur-Rehman Parra, who was arrested in 2021 with charges framed under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA), to take oath as a District Development Council member in Pulwama. He won the elections in 2020.

“The court deems it appropriate to observe that if there is no legal restriction or prohibition envisaged under the Panchayat Raj Act, 1989, read with Panchayat Raj Rules, 1996, in administering the oath of office to the petitioner by the Deputy Commissioner (DC), Pulwama, then the DC shall not default in carrying out the statutory duty of administering oath of office to the petitioner notwithstanding the pendency of the present writ petition,” Justice Rahul Bharti observed.

A copy of the order has been marked both to the DC, Pulwama, and Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), J&K. The court has invoked Article 226 of the Constitution and directed the DC to administer oath of office to Mr. Parra.

No quota for converts, say outfits at conclave of RSS media wing

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

The Vishwa Samvad Kendra, the media wing of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), on the conclusion of its two-day conclave on ‘Conversion and Reservation’ on Sunday said the meet unanimously resolved that reservation should not be provided to converts.

During the concluding session, former judge of the Telangana High Court, Justice B. Shiva Shankar Rao (retd), said that conversion meant “leaving one faith completely and adopting another”. “The definition on conversion says that you totally abandon the faith. And if you have left your faith, then why demand reservation and benefits given under it?” he questioned.

According to a communique, seven retired judges, seven Chancellors and Vice-Chancellors of different universities, 30 professors and lecturers, eight lawyers, and over 30 workers of various organisations, including the VHP, the RSS, participated in the conclave held in Greater Noida. Milind Kamble, chairman of Dalit Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, also addressed the participants and said that the provision of reservation was made to give proper representation to those who had less representation.

“However, those who converted to other religions snatched its benefits away from those who deserved it. They are eyeing it, even today,” he said, adding that some people want to grab political power in the name of reservation to converts.

Assam CM meets Amit Shah in Delhi

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma reached Home Minister Amit Shah’s official residence on Sunday to discuss government formation in Tripura and Nagaland, sources said. Nagaland CM-elect Neiphiu Rio also attended the meeting.

The sources said cabinet structure and government formation will be discussed during the meeting.

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS:TIRUPATI
SRI PADMAVATH CHILDREN’S HEART CENRTRE | S.V.PRANADANA TRUST

e-Tenders are invited for procurement of Surgical, Anesthesia, Cathlab, Perfusion Items & Drugs etc., required for Sri Padmavathi Children’s Heart Centre, Tirupati for a period of two years from the date of award. ●**Document Download Start Date: 06-03-2023 & 10.30 a.m.** ●**Last Date for Receipt of Bids : 20-03-2023 & 05.00 p.m.** For more details please visit **https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in** (or) **www.tirumala.org.**

Roc.No.PR4/13952/Adv.No.414/PRO/2023, Dated:05-03-2023 **EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
WRI & DD e-NIT
Executive Engineer, DPMU, Jhargram invites e-tender for Excavation of 5 nos. WDS at Binpur-II and Gopiballavpur-II Blocks in the District of Jhargram under DPMU, Jhargram, WBADMI Project Phase-II, Bid reference no. DPMU/Jhargram/eNIT-38/2022-23, Tender ID- 2023_WRDD_487045_1. Last dropping date 07/04/2023 (upto 18.00 Hrs). Intending bidders are requested to visit the website- http://wbtenders.gov.in for details and also corrigendum, if any. Sd/- Executive Engineer, DPMU, Jhargram, WBADMIP
IGA-1414(3)/2023

SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
RECRUITMENT FOR THE POST OF DIRECTOR (LIBRARY)
Applications from eligible candidates are invited for selection of suitable candidates for appointment to the post of **Director (Library)** in Level 13 of pay Matrix. The details about eligibility conditions etc. can be downloaded from Supreme Court of Website i.e. **www.sci.gov.in**
Branch Officer
[Recruitment Cell]

The Andhra Pradesh Dairy Development Coop. Federation Ltd
APIIC Towers, IT Park, Mangalagiri, Guntur-522 503, Email: mdap-ddcf@ap.gov.in
e- TENDER NOTICE ON e-PROCUREMENT PLATFORM
Tender No:AHF51-PRJT/2/2023-ADMN-AHF51 Dt. 06-03-2023
The Andhra Pradesh Dairy Development Co-op Federation Ltd., Mangalagiri, Guntur invites tenders for Design, Supply, Unloading, Erection/ Installation, Commissioning, Testing, Inspection, Startup, Training to staff etc., of AMCUs at Village Milk Collection Centres in various Districts in Andhra Pradesh State. Interested parties may submit their bids on e-procurement platform **@ www.apeprocurement.gov.in** on or before **27-03-2023 by 5.00 P.M.** The site will remain accessible to download the tender document w.e.f. **06-03-2023 by 10.00 A.M.** For further details the interested parties may contact during Office hours to Manager (Projects), Phone No: **0863-2381085, e-mail: mdap-ddcf@ap.gov.in**
Sd/- MANAGING DIRECTOR

Government of Odisha,
Office of the Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle,Sambalpur.
E-mail Id: serwcirclesbp@yahoo.com
Bid Identification No. Bridge Tender Online RWCSBP-30 No:446 Dated : 03.03.2023
The Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sambalpur on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites online percentage rate Bid from experienced & eligible bidders for 01 (One) no of Bridge work under Biju Setu Yojana for the year 2022-23.

1. Name of work : Bridge Works under BSY for the year 2022-23
2. No of works : 01 (One) no of Bridge work Details as per DTCN.
3. Estimated Cost : Approximately Cost Rs.358.88 lakhs
4. Class of Contractor : ‘A’ Class
5. Cost of tender paper and mode of deposit : Rs.10,000/- per set.(to be deposited On-line) in favour of concerned Executive Engineer
6. Mode of submission of tender : Tender should be submitted only On line in website www.tendersorissa.gov.in . (https//tendersodisha.gov.in)
7. EMD and mode of deposit : 1% of estimated cost of the work to be remitted online as mentioned in DTCN

8. Summary of Key dates are provided below :

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender online for bidding From	To	Last Date & Time for seeking clarification	Date & Time of Opening of tender Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sambalpur.	Bridge Tender Online - RWCSBP-30/ 2022-23	14.03.2023 at 11.00.A.M.	29.03.2023 up to 5.00 P.M.	24.03.2023 up to 5.00.P.M.	31.03.2023 at 11.00.A.M.	To be intimated later

*Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal **www.tendersorissa.gov.in. (https//tendersodisha.gov.in)** * Subsequent modification / corrigendum / Addendum if required shall appear in website only. * The amount put to bid is exclusive of GST. * Bidder should inspect the road before bidding and quote his rate accordingly.
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sambalpur.
O-1944: OIPR-25091/11/0043/2223

भारत सरकार - अंतरिक्ष विभाग / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA - DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
निर्माण एवं अनुरक्षण समूह, एसडीएससी-शार / CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP, SDSC-SHAR
श्रीहरिकोटा, आं.प्र. / SRIHARIKOTA - 524124
संक्षिप्त ई–निविदा सूचना / Brief E-TENDER NOTICE
ई–निविदा सूचना सं./e-Tender Notice No.CMG/C/I228723 तिथि/ Date. 28.02.2023
भारत के राष्ट्रपति की ओर से **"वाल्फ, एसडीएससी शार (सिविल कार्य) में कार्यशाला भवन के विस्तार"** (₹89 लाख); के लिए ई–निविदा के माध्यम से मद दर निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। निविदा दस्तावेज **16.03.2023** को **14:30** बजे तक डाउनलोड किए जा सकते हैं। विस्तृत सूचना हेतु इच्छुक निविदाकार हमारी वेबसाइट **www.isro.gov.in** या **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO** पर जाएं।
On behalf of President of India, Item Rate tenders are invited through e-tendering for **"Extension of workshop building at VALF, SDSC SHAR (Civil Works)".** (₹89 Lakhs); Tender documents can be downloaded up to **16.03.2023, 14:30** hrs. Interested tenderers may visit **www.isro.gov.in** or **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO** for details.
हस्ताक्षरित- समूह प्रधान, सीएमजी / एसडीएससी शार / **Sd/- GROUP HEAD, CMG / SDSC SHAR**

INBRIEF

Property of Mukhtar Ansari's close aide bulldozed in U.P.

The Ghazipur district administration on Sunday demolished parts of a building belonging to a close aide of criminal-turned-politician Mukhtar Ansari. The property of Kamlesh Singh 'Pradhan', who was a close associate of the gangster, was razed by the district administration amid heavy security. It is said that parts of the built structure were illegal and a notice was issued several times to remove that part of the building before initiating the action. The action comes amid the Uttar Pradesh government's renewed effort of crackdown against notorious gangsters in the wake of the Prayagraj murder.

India summons Swiss Ambassador over posters

India on Sunday summoned Switzerland's Ambassador to protest against certain posters critical of India that had been displayed near the main offices of the United Nations and Human Rights Council in Geneva. Government sources said that Sanjay Verma, Secretary (West), External Affairs Ministry, had "called in" the Swiss Ambassador Ralf Heckner and raised "the issue of unfounded and malicious anti-India posters" in front of the United Nations building in Geneva. The sources said that Mr. Heckner had said that the posters in Geneva were part of public spaces, but that they did not "reflect the position of the Swiss government".

ISRO to undertake controlled re-entry of satellite tomorrow

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will be undertaking a challenging experiment of a controlled re-entry of the decommissioned Megha-Tropiques-1 (MT1) satellite on Tuesday. The Megha-Tropiques-1 (MT1) is a joint Indo-French satellite launched in 2011 for tropical weather and climate studies, which was providing data services, supporting regional and global climate models till 2021. The space agency on Sunday said that as a responsible space agency committed to safe and sustainable operations in the outer space, it was gearing up for this challenging experiment.

Government approves launch of IFFCO's nano DAP fertilizer

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Sunday that the approval of nano DAP (di-ammonium phosphate) fertilizer is an important step towards making life easier for farmers. He was replying to a tweet from Union Chemicals and Fertilizers Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, who had announced the government's nod to the launch of nano liquid DAP (di-ammonium phosphate) fertilizer. Fertilizer cooperative Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Limited (IFFCO), which introduced nano liquid urea in 2021, announced on Friday that the government has approved the launch of its nano DAP fertilizer in the market. It is a big step towards self-reliance in fertilizers, said Mr. Modi. PTI

'Regulator's guidelines on Rajasthan power lines flout SC orders, threaten bustard'

Petitioners say high-tension power lines from solar plants in the States of Rajasthan and Gujarat often pose obstacles on the flight path of the birds, causing them to collide, often fatally, into them

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

In a move that helps solar power projects in Rajasthan but may hinder efforts to make the region safe for the endangered Great Indian Bustard, the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) – India's apex power regulator – has proposed that only power lines below 33 kV need to go underground and the rest be fitted with bird-diverters.

Conservationists have objected to the proposal, and said the move could lead to the "extinction" of the bird.

The CEA proposal was part of draft regulations issued on February 1 – and open to public comment until March 3 – that came against the background of an ongoing case against threats to the bustard and other birds from power lines.

The regulations can lead to the extinction of the endangered Great Indian Bustard.

High-tension power lines in Rajasthan and Gujarat from solar plants often lie on the flight path of the birds, causing them to collide – often fatally – into them.

While several species of migratory birds were being harmed, the matter is of particular concern to the future of the bustard as fewer than 150 of them remain, and existing conservation methods fall short of effectively replenishing their numbers.

Environmentalists and conservationists approached the Supreme Court in 2019, following which it directed in 2021 that all "low-voltage" power lines, in areas demarcated as "priority and potential habitats of the Great Indian Bustard" in the Thar and Kutch deserts, be pushed underground.

A majority of the lines that transmit power from Rajasthan's solar projects have a rating above 33 kV and several such proposed ones are expected to pass through the "priority" areas.

While there is no standard definition of a "low power" line, the Ministry of Power, in affidavits to the Supreme Court, defined them as power lines of 132 kV and lower.

The Supreme Court order would have, thus, required several existing and proposed lines to go underground, hiking the cost of supplying solar power.

"These draft regulations appear to be a way to circumvent the orders of the Supreme Court," said M.K. Ranjitsingh, lead petitioner and noted conservationist.

"The 11-kV lines are relatively low [in height] and have already been exempted. It was the high-tension lines that were the problem and with these regulations, virtually all high power lines get the pass-through," he told *The Hindu*.

"If the regulations come into effect, this would lead to the extinction of a critically endangered species, which is also the State Bird of Rajasthan. If this happens, this would be the second major species after the [Asiatic] cheetah to go extinct in post-Independent India," the petitioners noted.

Guidelines for UIDF likely to be released by March-end

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

The Urban Infrastructure Development Fund (UIDF), created for the growth of Tier 2 and 3 cities, should focus on the ongoing projects for the effective utilisation of funds; must provide for basic services; and encourage projects with lower carbon footprint. These are among a slew of likely guidelines to be released for operationalising the UIDF scheme, which was announced in this year's Budget with an annual allocation of ₹10,000 crore.

The guidelines envisage keeping funding for administrative expenses and maintenance out of the purview of the UIDF, and asking the States to adopt appropriate service charges while accessing the UIDF. The States may consider prioritising lower-cost high-impact urban projects, for wider coverage.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had announced in her Budget speech that the UIDF would be established through the use of priority sector lending shortfall.

While Tier 2 cities are those which have a population range of 50,000-1,00,000, Tier 3 cities are classified as those with a population of 20,000-50,000.

The States would be encouraged to leverage resources from the grants of the 15th Finance Commission, and existing schemes, to adopt appropriate user charges, while accessing the UIDF. The guidelines say that the Urban Local Bodies may be encouraged to apply appropriate user charges to make the UIDF project self-sustainable.

While the guidelines, jointly given by the National Housing Bank, the RBI and the Urban Affairs Ministry, would be issued by March-end, a tentative corpus would be allocated to the States by June for the scheme. Sources said the guidelines are being formulated based on the recommendations made by experts and stakeholders at a post-Budget webinar on Urban Development held last week.

Reel change: Hindutva's widening film catalogue

Anuj Kumar
NEW DELHI

Senior Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) leader Indresh Kumar's security detail was in for a surprise last week when actor Annu Kapoor, along with the producer and the director of the upcoming film *Main Deendayal Hoon,* reached his house in Delhi's Paharganj to seek his blessings.

"We are seeking his inputs for the script, but I am putting my own money," says Ranjeet Sharma, the producer of the film based on the life of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya, an ideologue of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh – the forerunner of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

He says the new generation should know about Pandit Upadhyaya as Prime Minister Narendra Modi's policies are mostly rooted in his ideas.

The film, *Main Deendayal Hoon,* is among several productions in the works that align with the ruling dispensation's narrative of Hindutva nationalism. *SwatantryaVeer Savarkar*, a biopic on Hindutva ideologue V.D. Savarkar, which marks the directorial debut of actor Randeep Hooda, also playing the titular role, is in the production stage, while *Main Atal Hoon,* starring Pankaj Tripathi as the BJP stalwart and former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, will be released in December.

Dr. Hedgewar, a biopic on RSS founder K.B. Hedgewar, whose *muhurat* clap was given by Union Minister Nitin Gadkari, is scheduled to hit theatres this Dasara and then screened in villages to prepare the ground for the beginning of the centenary celebrations of the RSS in 2024.

Among the most talked about projects is *Bhagwa Dhwaj,* a big-budget period drama tracing the roots of the RSS, penned by director S.S. Rajamouli's father and screenwriter V. Vijayendra Prasad, who has worked on blockbusters such as *Baahubali* and Oscar-nominated *RRR,* and was nominated to the Rajya Sabha by the current BJP regime.

Filmmakers are no longer pursuing straightforward propaganda movies such as *PM Narendra Modi* (2019), but are looking for a more nuanced narrative as witnessed in director Rajkumar Santoshi's recent film, *Gandhi Godse - Ek Yudh,* which explored an imagined reality in which Mahatma Gandhi survives the assassination attempt by Nathuram Godse and engages in a discussion with him in jail.

Sunny Mandavarra, director of *Dr. Hedgewar,* says the film will answer the oft-asked question: what was the role of the RSS and Dr. Hedgewar in the freedom movement? "The film will capture Dr. Hedgewar's days in the Anushilan Samiti [an early 20th-century underground revolutionary organisation], his tryst with the Congress, disillusionment with the party after the Khilafat Movement and the formation of the RSS."

Action begins: Union Minister Nitin Gadkari giving the *mahurat* clap of *Dr. Hedgewar*. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

'Drawing a bigger line'

Big production houses are also creating space for films that suit the Hindutva narrative. While Yash Raj Films produced the Akshay Kumar-starrer *Samrat Prithviraj*, which sought to revive cultural nationalism, Karan Johar's Dharma Productions is researching for *Takht,*which will showcase Dara Shikoh – the eldest son of Mughal emperor Shah Jahan.

RSS leaders are not against using cinema as a tool of communication as long as it promotes the country's cultural ethos, says Atul Gangwar, secretary of the Bharatiya Chitra Sadhna (BCS). The independent body draws its inspiration from Sanskar Bharti, an ancillary unit of the RSS that works to promote Indian art, fine arts, and culture.

Sandeep Singh, who is co-producing *Swatantrya-Veer Savarkar,* told *The Hindu* at the time of the poster launch that "Savarkar was a misunderstood freedom fighter who could have stopped Partition and was kept out of the cultural narrative by a political party."

Some of the latest projects on Hindutva icons are driven by the success of *The Kashmir Files,* one of the highest-grossing films in the country last year.

"Some producers see it as an opportunity to get close to the ruling dispensation. I don't know what will come of their efforts," says Chandraprakash Dwivedi, director of *Samrat Prithviraj,* who has been associated with Sanskar Bharti. The film did not succeed at the box office.

The BJP leadership has come out in support of films such as *Samrat Prithviraj*, which was offered tax exemptions by two BJP-ruled States, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, and *The Kashmir Files*, which was made tax-free in six BJP-ruled States.

Author and film historian Ajay Brahmatamaj says there is no doubt that there was a Leftist influence on Indian cinema for decades after Independence.

"Now the BJP and the RSS want to use this soft power of the cinema to their advantage in a more direct fashion by creating narratives around their icons before the 2024 polls," he says.

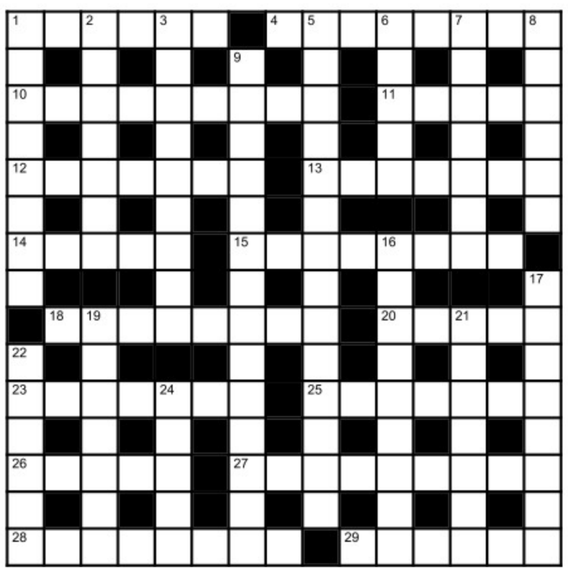
RSS spokesperson Sunil Ambekar also downplayed the organisation's role behind the rising number of movies based on Hindutva icons. "Creative people move amid the general public and pick their stories from society. They must be sensing some change, which is being reflected in their stories. There is no need to see politics in everything."

TH CROSSWORD + 13805

(set by Arden)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Hope to contain high pressure (6)
4 Most of the teeth over time held together with ease, now can't bite (8)
10 Native history buried in Lincoln (9)
11 Take sides during fighting to irrigate (5)
12 Serial killing finally solved in the capital (7)
13 Like to return fast, taking interest is important (7)
14 Material study on time essentially (5)
15 Red inventory includes nine from the Orient (8)
18 Allowed to carry thin glove (8)
20 Big bird's back in news with divine power (5)
23 Not specific information on the boy (7)
25 Aspire to live without heart problem (7)
26 Sign inside - "John for White House" (5)
27 Instrument for writing, grade one version (4,5)
28 Dispatched - country heads lacking charm (8)
29 Young man once said "No, sorry" (6)

Down

1 Bear hugs - one about to find leaves in a container (3,5)
2 Used for crowd control while touring around (4,3)
3 Superhero in turn shows some skin (9)
5 Rigs with steel bands - shifting some furniture (8,6)
6 Latest - central help for a central post (5)
7 One plays a part in kind of electric shock (7)
8 Time to get the sailor back, these are the mistakes (6)
9 Relic I selected turned out to be a prime mover (6-8)
16 Feverish? No wonder, catching cold - maybe some jabberwockery (5,4)
17 Divine issue raises fires (8)
19 A tunnel shaped like a ring (7)
21 Silent spy - details of one changing the DNA (7)
22 I get in somehow before things catch fire (6)
24 German's positive support for port wine (5)

SUDOKU

2		6	7	9		1		
	8		2	3				
		3						7
3		4			1			8
	6						4	
5			3			6		2
8						2		
				1	3		7	
		5		2	7	8		4

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

No.SS5729 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle

■	P	E	R	P	E	N	D	I	C	U	L	A	R	■
■	R	■	A	■	X	■	I	■	O	■	E	■	E	■
L	O	A	N	■	P	E	R	I	O	D	I	C	A	L
■	S	■	G	■	O	■	E	■	L	■	T	■	C	■
G	A	T	E	A	U	■	C	A	L	A	M	I	T	Y
■	I	■	■	■	N	■	T	■	Y	■	O	■	O	■
A	C	C	O	R	D	I	O	N	■	S	T	A	R	■
■	■	■	L	■	■	■	R	■	■	■	I	■	■	■
■	T	I	D	Y	■	A	G	G	R	A	V	A	T	E
■	W	■	E	■	L	■	E	■	E	■	■	■	A	■
D	O	W	N	T	U	R	N	■	B	I	C	E	P	S
■	F	■	B	■	C	■	E	■	E	■	R	■	I	■
V	O	L	U	M	E	T	R	I	C	■	I	D	O	L
■	L	■	R	■	N	■	A	■	C	■	M	■	C	■
■	D	I	G	I	T	A	L	C	A	M	E	R	A	■

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

1	6	4	3	7	9	5	8	2
2	3	5	4	6	8	1	7	9
7	8	9	2	5	1	4	6	3
5	9	7	8	4	2	3	1	6
8	2	1	9	3	6	7	5	4
3	4	6	7	1	5	2	9	8
6	5	2	1	8	4	9	3	7
9	1	3	6	2	7	8	4	5
4	7	8	5	9	3	6	2	1

FAITH

Bhakti, as shown by Dhruva

It is never too early to start our children on following the path of dharma. Our scriptures are replete with examples of youngsters like Dhruva and Prahladha who happily embraced the right way at an early age, and received divine blessings ad infinitum. Dhruva, son of a king, was all of five years old when his stepmother cunningly forced the child to undertake penance in a forest, merely to receive the love of his father and enjoy the simple pleasure of sitting on his father's lap, something his step-brother Uthama was enjoying, said Dhamal Perundevi in a discourse.

Neither sage Narada nor his mother Sunithi could persuade the child Dhruva to undertake the penance in the simple abode of Sunithi's that was on the outskirts of the kingdom, as the child's belief in the power of prayer and penance was unshakable. Instead, he asked Narada to show him the way to realise his mission, and the former taught him the sloka, "*Om Namo Bhagavathe Vasudevaya*'. In the forest, the child chanted this sloka. Such was the power of his meditation that all the gods were shaken and rushed to Lord Vishnu to bless Dhruva. The Lord asked the boy what he sought. Dhruva forgot his original reason for the penance. "All I want is to praise you my Lord, but I do not know the words. All I know is Om Namo Bhagavathe Vasudevaya. I want to look upon You always," he added. With His grace, he sang 36 verses. Vishnu promised Dhruva that he will never leave him; blessed him and promised him further glory after he carried out his earthly duty of becoming the ruler of his father's kingdom. As promised, at the end of his long and just tenure, Vishnu made Dhruva a star in the sky, shining bright.

ATHENS

Greek PM seeks forgiveness as thousands protest over rail tragedy

AFP

Greece's Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis asked for forgiveness from the kin of the 57 dead in the nation's worst rail disaster on Tuesday as thousands of protesters clashed with the police. People gathered outside the country's parliament on Sunday following a call by students, rail workers and public sector employees. AFP

CAIRO

Egypt's leader, visiting Iraqi premier seek to deepen ties

REUTERS

Egypt's President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi held talks on Sunday with Iraq's Prime Minister in Cairo as the two countries sought to deepen ties and reinforce a regional alliance with Jordan. The trip marked Mohammed Shia al-Sudani's first visit to Cairo since his Cabinet came to power in October, ending a year-long political stalemate. AP

HONG KONG

Hong Kong police stop activists from joining women's march

AP

A Hong Kong pro-democracy group on Sunday said the national security police stopped activists from joining a highly anticipated protest that was cancelled at the last minute by the organiser. The planned event would have been the first major civil rights protest in three years approved by the police. AP

TEL AVIV

Comments to erase Palestinian village 'inappropriate': Netanyahu

AFP

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the remarks by a key Cabinet ally calling for a Palestinian village to be erased were inappropriate, after the U.S.'s demand to reject the statement. He did not appear to condemn the remarks outright and implied that the ally, Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich, had misspoke. AP

China increases defence spending by 7.2%

A spokesperson for the National People's Congress says the rise in spending is 'needed for meeting complex security challenges'; Beijing announces a lower than expected GDP target of 'around 5%' for 2023; outgoing Premier Li Keqiang delivers his last report to the NPC

Ananth Krishnan
BEIJING

China's government on Sunday announced a hike in defence spending by 7.2% to $225 billion in 2023, saying the rise was needed to deal with "complex security challenges".

Beijing also announced a lower than expected growth target of "around 5%" for the year, as the National People's Congress (NPC), or Parliament, convened for its annual session in the capital.

Outgoing Premier Li Keqiang delivered his last report to the NPC on Sunday morning. The session will conclude on March 12, with Mr. Li set to be replaced by a close ally of President Xi Jinping, Li Qiang, who was promoted as the second-ranked leader of the Politburo at the ruling Communist Party's once-in-five-year congress in October 2022.

The NPC is a largely ceremonial legislature that endorses party policies as well as approves government appointments. This year's session, which marks the end of Mr. Li's second five-year term, will see sweeping changes across government ministries with officials set to be appointed for the next five years.

Mr. Li, in his last work report to the NPC, announced an economic growth target of "around 5%" for 2023. Last year, the economy failed to meet its 5.5% target, growing by 3% as it struggled with the impact of the "zero-COVID" policy, which was finally withdrawn in December.

Future course: Xi Jinping and other officials at the opening session of the National People's Congress in Beijing on Sunday. REUTERS

Mr. Li said the country would add "around 12 million new urban jobs" this year as well as continue to boost strategic, high-tech industries while "defusing major economic and financial risks", which included local government debt as well as financial problems continuing to plague real estate enterprises.

On Sunday, a draft Budget presented to the NPC, which will be approved during this session, proposed a 7.2% hike to take defence spending to 1.55 trillion Yuan ($225 billion), up from 1.45 trillion Yuan in 2022. In dollar terms, the Budget actually declined from $230 billion in 2022 given the depreciation in the Yuan.

China's still sizeable Budget remains around three times that of India's. NPC spokesperson Wang Chao told reporters the increase in defence spending, which was only a slight rise from last year's 7.1% hike, was "needed for meeting complex security challenges and for China to fulfil its responsibilities as a major country."

Upcoming goals

Mr. Li's work report, which outlined goals for the coming year, said the military "should work to carry out military operations, boost combat preparedness, and enhance military capabilities so as to accomplish the tasks entrusted to them by the Party and the people."

"The armed forces should intensify military training and preparedness across the board, develop new military strategic guidance, devote greater energy to training under combat conditions, and make well-coordinated efforts to strengthen military work in all directions and domains," he said, adding that in the past year, the Army "carried out operations in a firm and flexible way; and they effectively conducted major missions relating to border defence, maritime rights protection, counterterrorism and stability maintenance, disaster rescue and relief, COVID-19 response, peacekeeping, and merchant ship escorting."

Imran Khan dodges arrest after police show up at residence

Press Trust of India
LAHORE

A team of the Islamabad police on Sunday reached the Lahore residence of ousted Prime Minister Imran Khan to arrest him in the Toshakhana case, but returned after assurance from his legal team that he will appear before the court on March 7.

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) vice chairman and former Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi said there is no mention of "arrest" in the warrants as an Islamabad sessions court has asked him to appear before it on March 7 in the Toshakhana case.

The 70-year-old cricketer-turned politician has thrice skipped indictment hearings in the case.

The PTI chief has been in the crosshairs for buying gifts, including an expensive Graff wristwatch he received as the premier, at a discounted price from the state depository called Toshakhana and selling them for profit.

The Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority banned satellite television channels from broadcasting the speeches of Mr. Khan with immediate effect. It said Mr. Khan, in his speech, was "levelling baseless allegations and spreading hate speech through his provocative statements against state institutions and officers which is prejudicial to the maintenance of law and order and is likely to disturb public peace and tranquillity."

Sri Lanka fishermen 'fiercely oppose' proposal to issue licence to Indian fishermen

Meera Srinivasan
COLOMBO

Sri Lanka's northern fishermen on Sunday said they "fiercely oppose" the government's plan to issue licences to Indian fishermen to enter Sri Lankan waters, terming the move a "serious setback" to their nearly 15-year-long struggle.

On February 22, Foreign Minister Ali Sabry told Parliament that authorities were looking into possibly issuing licences to Indian fishermen, as part of Sri Lanka's efforts to find a solution to the long-persisting fisheries conflict, through "cordial" bilateral talks. "This was discussed this with Indian Foreign Minister Jaishankar...Sri Lanka's priority is to safeguard fishermen's livelihoods, the country's marine resources, and find a long-term solution...India has proposed this licensing system as a solution, and we are holding discussions on it," he said, adding that such a system would help Indian authorities better regulate their fishermen, and will also bring in money that could be used for Sri Lankan fishermen's betterment. About "2,000 to 3,000 [Indian trawlers] come to our seas every day and our Navy is unable to control that," Mr. Sabry further noted.

The Minister's remarks have sparked serious concern among northern fishermen, said Annalingam Annarasa, who leads a Jaffna-based fishermen's association. "We are very worried, this will be a serious setback to our struggle for the last 15 years to stop Indian trawlers from entering our seas," he told *The Hindu*. "Moreover, some political actors are trying to turn fishermen of our two countries against each other, using this problem. We need an urgent solution to this."

Choppy waters: Sri Lanka's fishermen have, for many years now, been highlighting their depleting catch and losses. FILE PHOTO

Plea to Tamil MPs

Fisher leaders including him on Sunday put forward this view to Tamil MPs representing northern districts and sought their support to resist the government's proposal, and to urge Colombo to fully implement Sri Lankan laws that ban bottom trawling and illegal fishing.

Following the meeting, Jaffna MP M.A. Sumanthiran – whose Bill against bottom trawling was passed by Parliament in 2017 – said legislators across parties agreed that no permits should be issued to Indian trawlers. "Even without permits, Indian trawlers are already entering Sri Lankan waters and destroying marine resources. Issuing licenses will only aggravate the problem," he said.

The fisheries conflict affecting fishermen of Sri Lanka and India has remained a thorny issue in Indo-Lanka bilateral ties. From the time Sri Lanka's civil war ended in 2009, Tamil fishermen living in Sri Lanka's northern districts have consistently protested Indian trawlers – originating from Tamil Nadu – fishing along their coastline, citing the destruction they cause to marine biodiversity and their livelihoods that are closely tied to it. Sri Lankan fishermen also frequently report serious damage to their fishing nets and gear, and huge losses, owing to the bottom trawlers.

Left in the lurch

Despite bilateral talks and discussions among fishermen's representatives from either side of the Palk Strait, the problem is yet to be resolved, leaving the northern Sri Lankan fisher folk, who are struggling to resurrect their war-battered livelihoods, in a precarious situation.

The proposed licensing system will "undermine fishing as a way of life" for the next generations of Sri Lankan fishermen, according to Ahilan Kadirgamar, a senior lecturer at the University of Jaffna, who researches northern livelihoods. "They feel both the Sri Lankan and Indian governments have betrayed them," he said.

Trump slams Republican 'fools' at gathering

Agence France-Presse
NATIONAL HARBOR

Former U.S. President Donald Trump dramatically raised the stakes of the 2024 election on Saturday as he warned he was the only candidate who could save America from "warmonger" Democrats and the "zealots and fools" of the mainstream Republican party.

Darkly invoking a nation on its knees, Mr. Trump told the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) that Americans were "in an epic struggle to rescue our country from the people who hate it and want to absolutely destroy it."

"We had a Republican Party that was ruled by freaks, neocons, globalists, open border zealots and fools," he said, singling out multiple luminaries of the traditional party by name.

American voters, Mr. Trump said, were tired of "entrenched political dynasties in both parties, rotten special interests, China-loving politicians" and supporters of "endless foreign wars."

"We're going to have Word War III if something doesn't happen fast," he cautioned in a section voicing disapproval for U.S. aid to Ukraine.

"I am the only candidate who can make this promise: I will prevent World War III."

The 2023 edition featured speeches from some of the country's most committed Trumpists – and even Brazil's defeated former President Jair Bolsonaro – although many potential 2024 candidates and Republican leadership skipped the convention.

THE HINDU GROUP

FRONTLINE
LEADING THE DEBATE SINCE 1984

Colours of belonging

Who are "liberal" Muslims? What is their sociological location? What is the nature of the Hindutva challenge that has destabilised this status? Academics and experts dissect these questions in the latest issue of Frontline.

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FRONTLINE
BACK TO THE WALL
Caught in a vortex of hate, how does India's liberal Muslim voice begin to be heard, understood and embraced"

Why are **Assam's child marriage** arrests problematic? Because this crude crackdown makes the welfare of the girl irrelevant and turns the focus on criminalization alone.

Some **800-plus Indian languages** that were never written down face extinction unless we take some urgent steps, says Anvita Abbi, international scholar on minority languages.

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A BG-BGE

Dollar hits gold, silver

PRECIOUSMETALS

B.Krishnakumar

Precious metals lost their sheen in February with both gold and silver recording the worst monthly decline since June 2021. The strengthening of the U.S. Dollar was one of the key reasons behind the weakness. Besides, the expectations of further interest rate increases by the U.S. Federal Reserve dented market sentiment for gold and silver.

As a result, Comex gold lost 5.5% in February to end the month at $1,836.7 per ounce. Comex silver witnessed a much steeper cut of 11.6% to settle at $21.07 at the end of February.

Mirroring the weak trend in the global markets, the price of gold and silver closed lower in the domestic markets. MCX gold lost 2.5% to settle at ₹55,739 per 10 gram. Similar to the trend in the global markets, MCX silver saw a sharper cut of 7.5% to end February at ₹64,623 per kilogram.

Underperformance vs. gold

Due to the sharp fall in the price of silver, the white metal continued its underperformance versus gold in February too. The relative underperformance was visible throughout January and spilled over to February as well. We will monitor this relative performance to assess if the white metal is outperforming or underperforming the yellow metal.

The weakness in Comex gold pushed the price well beyond the target zone of $1,830-$1,840 mentioned in February. The recent fall has also resulted in the price reaching an oversold zone in the short-term and a mean-reversion move is likely.

Comex gold is likely to rise to the short-term target of $1,885-1,890 range. This anticipated short-term up move is unlikely to reverse the recent downtrend witnessed since late December 2022. Only a move past $1,940 would indicate the scope for a significant upside in Comex gold. A drop below $1,800 would be a sign of weakness and could push the price to $1,745-$1,760.

Comex silver posted a decisive break below the lower end of the prior trading range of $22-$22.5. As observed in February, this breakout resulted in a downside momentum and the silver price dropped to a low of $20.5 on February 28.

The recent fall has pushed the price to an oversold zone which could trigger a short-term bounce to the $22.20-$22.60 zone. This view would be invalidated if the price drops below $20.4. In the domestic market, MCX gold reached the target of ₹55,000-55,500 mentioned in February. In the short-term, the price could rise to the immediate target of ₹56,500-57,000. A fall below ₹54,500 would invalidate the possibility of a short-term rise.

MCX silver, too, reached the target zone of ₹65,600-67,000 mentioned last month. The short-term outlook for silver remains weak but the current oversold condition could trigger a rise towards ₹67,500-68,000. The downtrend is likely to resume on the completion of the anticipated rise. A fall below ₹63,000 would negate the case for a rise to ₹67,500-68,000.

To summarise, precious metal prices could witness a short-term rally but are unlikely to see a sustained rise.

(The author is a Chennai based analyst / trader. The views and opinion featured in this column is based on the analysis of short-term price movement in gold and silver futures at COMEX & Multi Commodity Exchange of India. This is not meant to be a trading or investment advice)

Send queries on personal finance and investing to the moneywise@thehindu.co.in ID. Our experts in personal finance will respond to select queries, but will not give specific recommendations for investment in a particular mutual fund, share or fixed deposit.

Offshore your investments to offset a 'country risk'

Most of us Indians virtually have no investments outside India; in the event of a war, natural calamity, or a terror attack, all our investments here will be adversely impacted

MONEY MATTERS

Gaurav Mashruwalla

> The usual argument is: since the returns in India are good, why should we invest outside India? This is also known as 'country bias'

> Investments outside India should not be considered to generate higher returns, but to reduce the adverse impact of country risk

If I recall correctly, it was in 1991-92 when India was about 23 weeks away from defaulting on the trade front. The country hardly had any foreign exchange to pay for its imports.

The Congress government was at the Centre, and under the leadership of P.V. Narasimha Rao, Dr. Manmohan Singh was the Finance Minister. To overcome the balance of payments crisis, the country's gold was utilised.

This is an example of country risk. If things had gone wrong, then investors in India from all over the world would have suffered.

The Brexit example

There are many such examples. The decision by Britain to exit the European Union had an impact on the valuation of the portfolios of investors whose securities had some connection to Britain.

A few years ago, some European countries suffered from an economic crisis. These were popularly known as the PIIGS countries - Portugal, Ireland, Italy, Greece and Spain.

During those times, not only were the direct investors adversely impacted, the ripple effects were witnessed across the globe.

The economic crisis in Sri Lanka and Pakistan in recent times is on our minds. The war in Ukraine following Russia's invasion has an impact on investments though the conflict involves two neighbouring countries.

Many a time, our investment in a particular security could be performing as per our expectations.

Balanced portfolio

The portfolio could be well balanced. Our asset allocation could be optimum and we may have invested at the best possible prices. Yet, the performance of our portfolio could suffer because of turbulence in the country. The turbulence could be economic, political or even a natural disaster.

Currency devaluation

Devaluation of the country's currency in a war or a war-like situation, civil unrest, are all examples of country risk. Apart from these, natural calamities might result in country risk.

When tsunamis or hurricanes hit a country, investments in that country could get adversely impacted. When there was unrest and uprisings in Yemen, Egypt and a few other West Asian countries, investors in those countries suffered.

RBI scheme

As investors, most of us Indians virtually have no investments outside India, though as per the Liberalised Remittance Scheme of RBI, every Indian can invest up to $2,25,000 outside the country every year. Since we do not have any investments outside India, all our investments are in an 'extremely high-risk category' as far as the country risk is concerned.

In the event of a natural calamity, or a war or a war-like situation or a major terror attack, all our investments will be adversely impacted.

Our house, bank accounts, jewellery, shares and stocks, bonds, PPF account, gold, etc., are all in a single country.

We do not have any kind of exposure outside India.

The usual argument is: since the returns in India are good, why should we invest outside India? This is also known as 'country bias'. As we live in India, we are not willing to look at options outside India and consider investments only in India.

Investments outside India should not be considered to generate higher returns, but to reduce the adverse impact of country risk. A well-balanced portfolio considers diversification across countries to reduce country risk.

We now also have mutual fund schemes that invest outside India. In such cases we invest in Indian currency, from India.

Tax implications are as per our prevailing laws and over a period of time, even succession planning will be as per our laws.

Currency risk

One major risk that is inherent in such an investment is the currency risk.

There have been instances where investments have performed well, but due to currency variations there may be a favourable or an unfavourable outcome. However, there can never be a risk-free investment.

The next time your SEBI-approved registered investment adviser advises you to directly or indirectly invest outside India, do not dismiss the idea outright.

Investment relationship

THINKINVESTOR

It would be ideal to have two investments increase in value when the market moves up and for the investments to move in opposite directions to each other when the market declines

Venkatesh Bangaruswamy

The stronger the investments are related to each other, the lower the diversification effect, even if you hold several mutual funds and stocks in your portfolio. In this article, we discuss the misunderstood nature of the relationship between investments.

Correlation refers to how two investments move in relation to each other. A positive correlation means two investments move in the same direction whereas a negative correlation is when one investment moves down when the other moves up. The magnitude of the movement in returns is captured by the strength of the correlation – strong or weak.

Now, individuals typically consider diversification to mean making investments that are negatively correlated with each other. Even assuming such negatively correlated investments exist, consider why such a relationship may not augur well for your financial well-being.

Diversification is arguably about minimising losses. So, you want one investment to go up when the other moves down. But looked at from the other side, this means that one investment is going down when the other is going up. And that could reduce the returns on your portfolio when the market is doing well.

The ideal scenario would be to have both investments increase in value (positive correlation) when the market moves up and for the investments to move in opposite directions to each other (negative correlation) when the market declines. Unfortunately, investments tend to behave opposite to the ideal situation – they move together during global crisis and have weak positive correlation during normal markets. You need sophisticated models to capture the changing nature of relationship between investments during up and down markets. While understanding the model is not difficult, getting data and continually self-managing the portfolio to such a model could be an issue. That is why diversifying the source of returns becomes an efficient choice for individuals self-managing their investments.

Conclusion

It is optimal to have two investments in each of your goal-based portfolios – one equity investment (equity fund) for capital appreciation and one bond investment to generate income returns. This is because cash flows from interest through cumulative deposit or recurring deposit moderates the volatility in your portfolio that can be attributed to equity investments. It is important to understand that having multiple investments is not necessarily an answer to diversification.

(The author offers training programmes for individuals to manage their personal investments)

Bank Fixed Deposit Rates

Bank Name	Interest Rates (%) Highest Slab	1-year Tenure	3-year Tenure	5-year Tenure
Small Finance Banks				
AU Small Finance Bank	7.75	6.10	7.75	7.20
Capital Small Finance Bank	7.50	7.10	7.10	7.10
Equitas Small Finance Bank	8.00	7.50	7.75	7.00
ESAF Small Finance Bank	8.10	6.00	5.75	5.25
Fincare Small Finance Bank	8.11	7.25	7.00	7.00
Jana Small Finance Bank	8.10	7.25	8.10	7.25
Suryoday Small Finance Bank	8.51	7.00	7.25	6.75
Ujjivan Small Finance Bank	8.00	6.50	7.20	7.20
Utkarsh Small Finance Bank	8.25	7.75	7.50	7.50
Private Sector Banks				
Axis Bank	7.26	6.75	7.00	7.00
Bandhan Bank	8.00	7.25	7.25	5.85
CSB Bank	7.50	5.00	5.75	5.75
DBS Bank	7.50	6.25	6.50	6.50
DCB Bank	7.85	7.25	7.60	7.60
HDFC Bank	7.10	6.60	7.00	7.00
ICICI Bank	7.10	6.70	7.00	7.00
IDFC First Bank	7.50	6.75	7.50	7.00
IndusInd Bank	7.50	7.00	7.50	7.25
Jammu & Kashmir Bank	7.25	7.25	6.50	6.50
Karnataka Bank*	7.50	7.00	5.75	5.75
Karur Vysya Bank	7.50	7.00	7.00	6.25
Kotak Mahindra Bank	7.20	7.00	6.50	6.20
RBL Bank	7.80	7.00	7.00	7.00
SBM Bank India	7.75	7.05	7.30	7.75
South Indian Bank	7.40	6.60	6.50	6.00
TMB	8.00	7.25	6.50	6.50
Public Sector Banks				
Bank of Baroda	7.05	6.75	6.75	6.25
Bank of India	7.05	6.00	6.50	6.00
Bank of Maharashtra	7.00	6.25	6.00	5.75
Canara Bank	7.15	6.75	6.50	6.50
Indian Bank	7.00	6.10	6.25	6.25
Indian Overseas Bank	7.00	6.45	6.50	6.50
Punjab National Bank	7.25	6.80	7.00	6.50
State Bank of India	7.10	6.80	6.50	6.50
Union Bank of India	7.30	6.30	7.30	6.70
Foreign Banks				
Citibank	7.77	7.25	3.50	3.50
Deutsche Bank	7.50	6.75	7.50	7.50

*w.e.f. March 1

Rates as on February 28 **Source:Paisabazaar.com**

Home Loan Interest Rates

Name of Lender	Loan Amount (Rs.) Upto 30 lakh	Above 30 lakh & upto 75 lakh	Above 75 lakh
			(In %)
Public Sector Banks			
State Bank of India*	8.85-10.15	8.85-10.00	8.85-10.00
Bank of Baroda	8.90-10.65	8.90-10.65	8.90-10.90
Union Bank of India	8.85-10.75	8.85-10.95	8.85-10.95
Punjab National Bank	8.85-9.60	8.80-9.50	8.80-9.50
Bank of India	8.85-10.85	8.85-10.85	8.85-10.85
Canara Bank	8.85-11.25	8.85-11.25	8.85-11.25
UCO Bank	8.85-10.40	8.85-10.40	8.85-10.40
Punjab and Sind Bank	8.85-9.95	8.85-9.95	8.85-9.95
Indian Overseas Bank	9.55-10.95	8.60 onwards	8.60 onwards
Indian Bank	8.75-10.40	8.75-10.40	8.75-10.40
Private Sector Banks			
Kotak Mahindra Bank	9.00-9.80	9.00-9.95	9.00-10.05
ICICI Bank	8.75-12.70	8.75-12.70	8.75-9.15
Axis Bank	8.55 onwards	8.55 onwards	8.55 onwards
HSBC Bank	9.60-12.35	9.60-12.35	9.60-12.35
South Indian Bank	9.23-12.13	9.23-12.13	9.23-12.13
Karur Vysya Bank	9.02-10.19	9.02-10.19	9.02-10.29
Karnataka Bank	10.15-10.20	10.20-10.25	10.25-10.30
Federal Bank	9.15-10.30	9.15-10.30	9.15-10.30
Dhanlaxmi Bank	9.10-9.60	9.10-9.60	9.10-9.60
Tamilnad Mercantile Bank	8.65-14.00	8.65-14.00	8.65-14.00
Bandhan Bank	9.15-11.55	9.10-11.30	9.10-11.30
RBL Bank	9.69	9.69	9.94
Housing Finance Companies (HFCs)			
LIC Housing Finance	8.65-10.10	8.65-10.30	8.65-10.50
HDFC Ltd.	8.45-10.35	8.45-10.60	8.45-10.70
Bajaj Housing Finance	8.75 onwards	8.75 onwards	8.70 onwards
Tata Capital	8.95 onwards	8.95 onwards	8.95 onwards
PNB Housing Finance	8.50-14.50	8.50-13.00	8.50-10.85
GIC Housing Finance	8.45 onwards	8.45 onwards	8.45 onwards
Repco Home Finance	9.25 onwards	9.25 onwards	9.25 onwards
Indiabulls Housing	9.30 onwards	9.30 onwards	9.30 onwards
Aditya Birla Capital	8.75-14.50	8.75-14.50	8.75-14.50
ICICI Home Finance	9.20 onwards	9.20 onwards	9.20 onwards
Godrej Housing Finance	8.64 onwards	8.64 onwards	8.64 onwards

***Concession of 0.10% on the applicable interest rates for Shaurya and Shaurya Flexi Home Loans**
Rates as on February 28 **Source:Paisabazaar.com**

EXTRA SPECIAL

This fifty is a very important innings for me, says Shafali

Shafali Verma was delighted that she could play a significant inning after some disappointing outings of late. Her 84 off 45 balls helped Delhi Capitals open its campaign on a winning note, against Royal Challengers Bangalore. "This fifty is very important for me because it came after quite a few matches," the 19-year-old said.

ENTERTAINING

WPL opener felt like such an occasion: Heather Knight

Royal Challengers Bangalore all-rounder Heather Knight said she watched the opening match of the WPL and felt it was such an occasion. "It is nice to get going," she said. "It felt like such an occasion and Indians know how to throw a party. It looked like a hell of a lot of good fun."

THE KEY

Harmanpreet highlights the need for positive attitude

Mumbai Indians captain Harmanpreet Kaur, after playing a breathtaking knock that put her side on course for a resounding victory against Gujarat Giants on Saturday, said MI was looking for a win like that. "All of us were positive. When you have such an attitude in the team, your job (as a captain) is easy."

TIME TO FIRE

Smriti's Royal Challengers will be keen to get back on track

After the comprehensive defeat to Delhi Capitals, Royal Challengers Bangalore will be hoping to bounce back on Monday when it takes on Mumbai Indians. The match is also a face-off between Indian cricket's two big stars — Smriti Mandhana and Harmanpreet Kaur. The MI captain had played a sizzling knock in the WPL opener.

Delhi leaves Royal Challengers dazed with a capital show

Superlative strokeplay from Meg Lanning and Shafali Verma sets up DC's imposing total; RCB comes a cropper in the chase with American seamer Tara Norris scalping five

WPL

P.K. Ajith Kumar
MUMBAI

Flying high: Norris' dream debut and Shafali's big stand with Lanning made it a memorable day for Capitals. EMMANUAL YOGINI

Royal Challengers Bangalore looked the team to beat after the auction. Delhi Capitals on Sunday showed how.

A capital performance with the bat at the top of the order followed by a fine effort with the ball helped Delhi win the second match of the inaugural edition of the Women's Premier League by 60 runs on a hot, humid day at the Brabourne Stadium.

An excellent crowd was treated to a superlative display of stroke-play by the Capital openers Meg Lanning (72, 43b, 14x4) and Shafali Verma (84, 45b, 10x4, 4x6) as the team motored along to 223 for two.

Skipper Lanning, fresh from leading Australia to another T20 World Cup victory only a week ago, and her teenaged Indian partner Shafali indicated that theirs could be one of the most formidable opening partnerships of the competition.

Shafali went for the big shots whenever she could, hitting some clean sixes, while Lanning showed her class with some superbly timed shots, including a couple of back-to-back fours off Sophie Devine square of the wicket on the off.

Shafali was the first to reach her 50 off 31 balls, Lanning's came off 30 as the 100 was up in 9.4 overs. The breakthrough for RCB would come only nearly four overs later. That was provided by the England captain Heather Knight's off spin.

She removed both the openers within the space of three balls. If the RBC women heaved a collective sigh of relief, Marizanne Kapp made them feel desperately helpless yet again, as the South African smashed an unbeaten 39 off just 17 balls (3x4, 3x6).

RCB's reply wasn't strong enough, despite a promising start, and it finished at 163 for eight. Capitals bowled well, none as well as Tara Norris, the American left-arm seamer who lived a dream. She took five for 29.

Norris had told *The Hindu* a few days ago: "I want to make all the Associate nations proud."

She did.

SCOREBOARD

DELHI CAPITALS
Meg Lanning b Knight 72 *(43b, 14x4)*, Shafali Verma c Richa b Knight 84 *(45b, 10x4, 4x6)*, Marizanne Kapp (not out) 39 *(17b, 3x4, 3x6)*, Jemimah Rodrigues (not out) 22 *(15b, 3x4)*; Extras (lb-1, w-5): 6; Total (for two wkts. in 20 overs): 223.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-162 (Lanning, 14.3 overs), 2-163 (Shafali, 14.5).

RCB BOWLING
Renuka 3-0-24-0, Schutt 4-0-45-0, Preeti 4-0-35-0, Perry 3-0-29-0, Devine 1-0-20-0, Asha 2-0-29-0, Knight 3-0-40-2.

ROYAL CHALLENGERS
Smriti Mandhana c Shikha b Capsey 35 *(23b, 5x4, 1x6)*, Sophie Devine c Shafali b Capsey 14 *(11b, 3x4)*, Ellyse Perry b Norris 31 *(19b, 5x4)*, Disha Kasat c Capsey b Norris 9 *(11b, 1x4)*, Richa Ghosh c Radha b Norris 2 *(4b)*, Heather Knight c Lanning b Norris 34 *(21b, 2x4, 2x6)*, Kanika Ahuja c Shafali b Norris 0 *(1b)*, Sobhana Asha c Radha b Shikha 2 *(3b)*, Megan Schutt (not out) 30 *(19b, 5x4)*, Preeti Bose (not out) 2 *(8b)*; Extras (lb-1, w-3): 4; Total (for eight wkts. in 20 overs): 163.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-41 (Devine, 4.2), 2-56 (Smriti, 6.3), 3-89 (Perry, 10.3), 4-90 (Disha, 10.5), 5-93 (Richa, 12.2), 6-93 (Kanika, 12.3), 7-96 (Asha, 13.1), 8-150 (Knight, 17.5).

CAPITALS BOWLING
Shikha 4-0-35-1 , Kapp 4-0-36-0, Jonassen 4-0-28-0, Capsey 2-0-10-2, Radha 2-0-24-0, Norris 4-0-29-5.

Toss: RCB.
PoM: Tara Norris.
Delhi Capitals won by 60 runs.

Harris' blistering knock lays the Giants low

Shayan Acharya
NAVI MUMBAI

True Warriorz! Harris and Ecclestone scripted a stunning chase after the UP side looked down and out. GETTY IMAGES

Grace Harris' sensational unbeaten 59 (26b, 7x4, 3x6) and Sophie Ecclestone's cameo (22 not out, 12b, 1x4, 1x6) propelled UP Warriorz to a stunning three-wicket win over Gujarat Giants at the D.Y. Patil Stadium on Sunday.

Chasing a target of 170, Warriorz looked down and out when they were reduced to 105 for seven in the 16th over. Then came the Harris-Ecclestone show that snatched victory from the jaws of defeat.

No. 3 Kiran Navgire (53, 43b, 5x4, 2x6) had provided the initial push for Warriorz.

Earlier, Giants rode on Harleen Deol's knock (46, 32b, 7x4) to post 169 for six. With captain Beth Mooney ruled out of the game due to a knee injury, Sneh Rana led the Giants and opted to bat after winning the toss. The decision proved effective initially as the team brought up 30 runs in three overs, before a Deepti Sharma yorker cleaned up Sophia Dunkley.

At a time when crossing the 100-run mark looked difficult, Deol and Ashleigh Gardner (25, 19b, 2x4, 1x6) forged a crucial 44-run partnership to launch a fightback. Deepti struck again in the 16th over, dismissing Gardener. Harleen then went on the attack.

D. Hemalatha's 13-ball 21 took Giants to what looked like a competitive total but Harris and Ecclestone had other ideas.

SCOREBOARD

GUJARAT GIANTS
S. Meghana c Shweta b Ecclestone 24 *(15b, 5x4)*, Sophia Dunkley b Deepti 13 *(11b, 2x4)*, Harleen Deol c McGrath b Anjali 46 *(32b, 7x4)*, Annabel Sutherland c Anjali b Ecclestone 8 *(10b, 1x4)*, Sushma Verma c Shweta b McGrath 9 *(13b, 1x4)*, Ashleigh Gardner st. Healy b Deepti 25 *(19b, 2x4, 1x6)*, D. Hemalatha (not out) 21 *(13b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Sneh Rana (not out) 9 *(7b, 1x4)*; Extras (b-1, lb-1, w-12): 14; Total (for six wkts. in 20 overs): 169.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-34 (Dunkley, 3.5 overs), 2-38 (Meghana, 4.3), 3-50 (Sutherland, 7.1), 4-76 Sushma, 10.3), 5-120 (Gardner, 15.2), 6-142 (Harleen , 17.2).

UP WARRIORZ BOWLING
Rajeshwari 4-0-30-0, Anjali 4-0-43-1, Deepti 4-0-27-2, Ecclestone 4-0-25-2, McGrath 2-0-18-1, Devika 2-0-24-0.

UP WARRIORZ
Alyssa Healy c & b Garth 7 *(8b, 1x4)*, Shweta Sehrawat c Mansi b Garth 5 *(6b, 1x4)*, Kiran Navgire c Sushma b Garth 53 *(43b, 5x4, 2x6)*, Tahlia McGrath c Hemalatha b Garth 0 *(1b)*, Deepti Sharma b Mansi 11 *(16b)*, Grace Harris (not out) 59 *(26b, 7x4, 3x6)*, Simran Shaikh b Garth 0 *(1b)*, Devika Vaidya c Hemalatha b Sutherland 4 *(7b)*, Sophie Ecclestone (not out) 22 *(12b, 1x4, 1x6)*; Extras (b-4, nb-1, w-9): 14; Total (for seven wkts. in 19.5 overs): 175.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-13 (Healy, 2.1), 2-19 (Shweta, 2.5), 3-20 (McGrath, 2.6), 4-86 (Deepti, 11.6), 5-88 (Kiran, 12.4), 6-88 (Simran, 12.5), 7-105 (Devika, 15.4).

GUJARAT GIANTS BOWLING
Garth 4-0-36-5, Tanuja 4-0-29-0, Gardner 4-0-34-0, Sutherland 3.5-0-41-1, Sneh 2-0-16-0, Mansi 2-0-15-1.

Toss: Gujarat Giants.
PoM: Harris.
Warriorz won by three wickets with one ball remaining.

Verstappen begins with a bang; 1-2 for Red Bull

Off the mark: Verstappen won the season-opener, and at Bahrain, for the first time. GETTY IMAGES

BAHRAIN GP

Reuters
MANAMA

Formula One world champion Max Verstappen won the season-opening Bahrain Grand Prix on Sunday in a dominant 1-2 with Red Bull teammate Sergio Perez as Ferrari suffered agony under the floodlights.

Verstappen's cruise from pole position, with Perez taking the chequered flag 11.9s behind, was his first victory in Bahrain and also the first time the double champion had triumphed in the maiden race of a season.

Veteran double world champion Fernando Alonso passed Carlos Sainz's Ferrari with a thrilling wheel-to-wheel move 12 laps from the end to secure the final place on the podium for Aston Martin.

The results: 1. Verstappen (Red Bull); 2. Perez (Bull) +11.987; 3. Alonso (Aston Martin) 38.637; 4. Sainz (Ferrari) 48.052; 5. Hamilton (Mercedes) 50.977; 6. Stroll (Aston Martin) 54.502; 7. Russell (Mercedes) 55.873; 8. Bottas (Alfa Romeo) 72.647; 9. Gasly (Alpine) 73.753; 10. Albon (Williams) 89.774; 11. Tsunoda (AlphaTauri) 90.870; +1 lap: 12. Sargeant (Williams); 13. Magnussen (Haas), 14. De Vries (AlphaTauri); 15. Hulkenberg (Haas); 16. Zhou (Alfa Romeo); +2 lap: 17. Norris (McLaren); DNF: Ocon (Alpine); Leclerc (Ferrari); Piastri (McLaren).
Standings: Drivers: 1. Verstappen 25; 2. Perez 18; 3. Alonso 15; 4. Sainz 12; 5. Hamilton 10.
Constructors: 1. Red Bull 43; 2. Aston Martin 23; 3. Mercedes 16. 4. Ferrari 12; 5. Alfa Romeo 4.

Red-hot Liverpool pummels Man United

EURO LEAGUES

Agence France-Presse
LIVERPOOL

Cool finish: Gakpo beats United goalkeeper De Gea for Liverpool's third. GETTY IMAGES

Cody Gakpo, Darwin Nunez and Mohamed Salah all scored twice as Liverpool shrugged off a season of frustration to thrash Manchester United 7-0 at Anfield on Sunday.

Jurgen Klopp's men set a new record margin of victory in the clash between English football's two most successful clubs.

Just a second defeat in 23 games in all competitions realistically ends United's hopes of a first league title in a decade as they remain 14 points adrift of leaders Arsenal in third. But there could even more lasting damage from the club's heaviest defeat since 1931.

Liverpool closed to within three points of fourth-placed Tottenham with a game in hand on Spurs still to come.

Barcelona clung on with 10 men to beat Valencia 1-0 and move 10 points clear of Real Madrid at the top of LaLiga on Sunday, thanks to Raphinha's early header.

The Brazilian winger nodded the Catalans in front in the 16th minute. But after Ferran Torres missed a penalty and Ronald Araujo was sent off, the hosts were left fighting tooth and nail for the three points.

On Saturday, Atletico Madrid crushed Sevilla 6-1 to move third.

The results: Premier League: Nottingham Forest 2 (Johnson 19, 77) drew with Everton 2 (Gray 10-pen, Doucoure 29); Liverpool 7 (Gakpo 43, 50, Nunez 47, 75, Salah 66, 83, Firmino 88) bt Manchester United 0.
LaLiga: Barcelona 1 (Raphinha 16) bt Valencia 0.
On Saturday: Premier League: Southampton 1 (Alcaraz 35) bt Leicester 0; Wolves 1 (Traore 82) bt Tottenham 0.
LaLiga: Atletico Madrid 6 (Depay 23, 26, Griezmann 53, Carrasco 69, Morata 76, 90+2) bt Sevilla 1 (En-Nesyri 39).
Serie A: Atalanta 0 drew with Udinese 0; Fiorentina 2 (Gonzalez 49-pen, Jovic 87) bt AC Milan 1 (Hernandez 90+5).
Bundesliga: Stuttgart 1 (Perea 88) lost to Bayern Munich 2 (De Ligt 39, Choupo Moting 62); Union Berlin 0 drew with Cologne 0.

Angamuthu stars in Defenders' triumph

Shining bright: Defenders kept their nerve in a tense final.

Stan Rayan
KOCHI

R. Angamuthu, who took up volleyball rather late, led from the front as Ahmedabad Defenders fought off a fighting Bengaluru Torpedoes 3-2 and won the Prime Volleyball League title on Sunday.

The 27-year-old Tiruchi-born universal dominated the final with his fiery crosscourt smashes.

Defenders were cruising as they won the first two sets comfortably. T.R. Sethu then inspired a Torpedoes comeback. His serves and smashes saw Torpedoes take a 6-0 lead in the third set. However, Defenders levelled at 11 and went ahead 16-15. It was 18-18, but two errors from Defenders gave a new lease of life to Torpedoes.

Torpedoes were down 8-10 in the fourth but bounced back with a super point call. When Angamuthu's smash was blocked by Sethu and Mujeeb fired an ace, Torpedoes pulled level.

Defenders raced to a 12-7 lead in the decider and fittingly it was Angamuthu's crosscourt smash that turned out to be a winner.

The result: Ahmedabad Defenders bt Bengaluru Torpedoes 15-7, 15-10, 18-20, 13-15, 15-10.

How the Aussies cracked the Indian spin puzzle

They decided to do away with the premeditated sweep shots that had led to their downfall and played each delivery on merit; the Australians, in the lengthy break between the second and third Tests, had burnt midnight oil to come up with the right strategy against the home team's spinners; Khawaja and Labuschagne showed the way

INDIA IN AUSTRALIA

S. Dinakar
INDORE

How did the Australians manage to turn things around with the bat in the third Test?

This was the match in a subcontinental dust bowl where the ball turned even more than at Nagpur and Delhi.

Add to this the uneven bounce and puffs of dust from the first over, and India, winning the toss, was the favourite for a 3-0 lead.

Rohit Sharma and his men were in for a rude shock.

The Australians, in the lengthy break between the second and third Tests, had burnt midnight oil to come up with the right strategy against Indian spin.

Breakthrough: Labuschagne, in the company of Khawaja, set the tone for the Aussie revival in the first innings of the third Test. R.V. MOORTHY

Importantly, the Australians decided to do away with the premeditated sweep shots that had gifted wickets to the Indian spinners.

It was decided to play their normal game against spin and play each delivery on merit.

Many got it wrong when they said R. Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja bowled poorly in Indore. That's not true. It's just that the Australia batters, using their feet, played the Indian duo much better than in the earlier Tests.

Marked change

During the crucial 96-run second-wicket partnership between Usman Khawaja and Marnus Labuschagne in the Australian first innings, we saw a marked change in the Aussie approach.

The two batters, not obsessed with sweep, drove handsomely in front of the wicket and used their feet to both Ashwin and Jadeja.

Spinners do not like being milked for runs in the 'V'. It prevents them from having a stranglehold on the batters.

Cricket is a fascinating sport of tactics and strategy, it is also a technical game of footwork, body balance, distribution of weight and head position.

Khawaja and Labuschagne were relaxed at the crease, focused and did not allow the spin pair to dominate them mentally. They were not psyched out.

Labuschagne, in particular, played a lot off his backfoot, shortening his backlift to keep away the deliveries keeping low, and travelling back and using the depth of the crease to give himself more time and space. He could see the extent of turn and adjust accordingly.

Backfoot is best

In a conversation with the late Ajit Wadekar, a fine player of spin on treacherous wickets with his left-handed batting, the former India captain said, "On a turning track, the best way to play is off the backfoot."

Wadekar added, "You watch the ball for a longer time, see what it does, and can get runs behind square on both sides apart from forceful shots off the back foot in front of the wicket. You also have greater time to defend."

Frustration

Once the batters start playing them off the backfoot and with soft hands, frustration creeps into the spinners. Because when you push forward it opens up dismissals in bat-pad positions.

The Australians used their feet when they went forward rather than lean forward from a static position and make themselves vulnerable.

The confidence back, the fleet-footed Travis Head and Labuschagne put the pressure right back on the Indian spinners in the second innings. How quickly things can change!

GCA denies 'lock out' report

Shayan Acharya
MUMBAI

The Gujarat Cricket Association (GCA) has clarified that the spectators will be allowed entry into the Narendra Modi Stadium on the first day of the fourth Test between India and Australia on March 9.

However, access could be restricted in certain areas due to security protocols related to the Indian PM Narendra Modi and his Australian counterpart Anthony Albanese, who will be in attendance.

Though local media reports claimed that the stadium has been 'locked out' due to the leaders' high-profile visit, the GCA secretary Anil Patel rubbished such claims. "Those are rumours. Only a few seats would be left out due to the security protocol," said Anil on Sunday. The BCCI officials also confirmed that tickets are available for the spectators for all days.

Rest of India drubs Madhya Pradesh, retains Irani Cup in style

S. Dipak Ragav
GWALIOR

The only way the Irani Cup between Madhya Pradesh and Rest of India could have gone the distance on the fifth and final day was if the hosts did not lose early wickets. Chasing 437 for victory, MP resumed on 81 for two, with skipper Himanshu Mantri batting on a well-set 51. Unfortunately for Mantri, he was adjudged caught behind off the second ball of the day from Navdeep Saini and stood shocked at the decision as he felt his bat was nowhere near the ball.

From thereon, nothing went the home team's way. It lost wickets quickly and was bowled out for 198 as RoI cantered to a 238-run win to retain the Irani Cup at the Captain Roop Singh Stadium here on Sunday.

Champion: The victorious Rest of India team. S. DIPAK RAGAV

After Mantri's dismissal, pacer Mukesh Kumar bowled Yash Dubey – the first innings centurion – beating him with a delivery that did not come in as much as the batter expected and uprooting off-stump.

Aman Solanki, who hails from Gwalior, kept the small but boisterous crowd happy with a breezy 31, hitting six boundaries. Solanki and Harsh Gawli had added 49 runs for the fifth wicket putting up a semblance of a fight when Atit Sheth got a delivery to cut in sharply and sent Solanki's leg-stump cartwheeling.

With that wicket, the fort was breached as the lower order tried to sharpen their big-hitting skills, accelerating the inevitable as the hosts folded up 10 minutes before lunch.

The scores: Rest of India — 1st innings: 484.

Madhya Pradesh — 1st innings: 294.

Rest of India — 2nd innings: 246.

Madhya Pradesh — 2nd innings: Arham Aquil lbw b Mukesh 0, Himanshu Mantri c Upendra b Saini 51, Shubham Sharma b Saurabh 13, Harsh Gawli lbw b Narang 48, Yash Dubey b Mukesh 8, Aman Solanki b Sheth 31, Saransh Jain c Upendra b Sheth 7, Ankit Kushwah st Upendra b Saurabh 23, Anubhav Agarwal c&b Narang 3, Kumar Kartikeya lbw b Saurabh 7, Avesh Khan not out 0; Extras (lb-6, nb-1): 7; Total (in 58.4 overs): 198.

Fall of wickets: 0-1, 2-51, 3-81, 4-94, 5-143, 6-151, 7-188, 8-188, 9-192.

Rest of India bowling: Mukesh 12-4-34-2, Saini 9-2-34-1, Sheth 11-1-37-2 , Saurabh 17.4-1-60-3, Narang 9-0-27-2.

RoI won by 238 runs;
Player-of-the-Match: Yashasvi Jaiswal (213 & 144).

Liang pulls a surprise on promising youngster Lin to clinch the title

WTT CONTENDER GOA

Amol Karhadkar
PANAJI

He is no stranger to turning the tables when the odds are stacked against him. Liang Jingkun on Sunday lived up to the billing of a comeback king by surprising promising youngster Lin Shidong in an all-Chinese epic battle to win the men's singles title at the WTT Star Contender Goa 2023.

Despite trailing 2-1 and conceding a huge 7-1 lead to his 17-year-old compatriot, Lin made multiple stunning comebacks in the next three games to seal the match 4-2 in an hour-long battle.

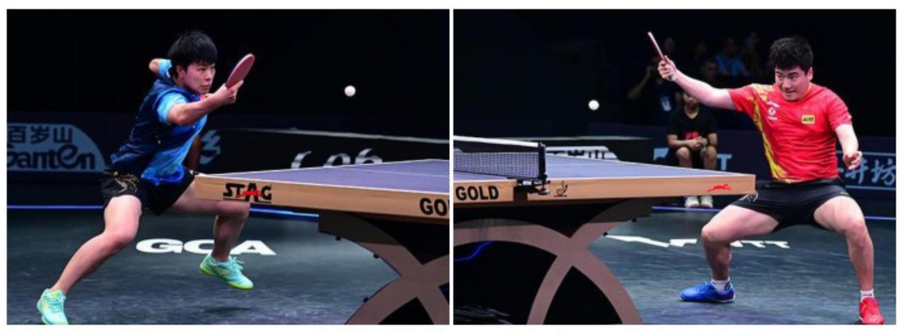
Lin overpowered Liang consistently for a better part of the match. However, Liang was composed, especially in the crunch moments to seal the title and take home a cheque worth $10,000 and 600 ranking points.

In the fourth game, Lin led 10-7 and was on the verge of going 3-1 up, but Liang came up to make it 2-2.

In the fifth game, Liang again found himself trailing 8-10, but his thundering forehand helped him seal the game with a four-point streak.

Lin's shoulders appeared to be drooping as Liang raced to a 8-4 lead in the sixth. However, Lin came back to take the game down the wire. Eventually, it was a backhand error by Lin after a 15-point rally that gave Liang victory.

Wang Yidi, the top seed, defeated Chinese Taipei's giant-slayer Cheng I-Ching to win the women's final in straight games.



Triumphant: Wang won the women's title, while Liang took the honours in the men's category.

The results (final):

Men: Liang Jingkun (Chn) bt Lin Shidong (Chn) 11-6, 9-11, 10-12, 12-10, 12-10, 11-9. **Doubles:** Cho Seungmin & An Jaehyun (Kor) bt Shunsuke Togami & Yukiya Uda (Jpn) 11-3, 9-11, 12-10, 11-4.

Women: Wang Yidi (Chn) bt Cheng I-Ching (Tpe) 11-6, 11-6, 11-8, 11-4. **Doubles:** Miwa Harimoto & Miyu Nagasaki (Jpn) bt Cheng I-Ching & Li Yu-Jhun (Tpe) 11-9, 11-7, 11-6.

Juliette retains Invitation Cup with record-breaking display; Northern Lights shines bright to take the honours in the Super Mile Cup

RACING

Cyrus J. Madan
Riaz Babu
BENGALURU

Juliette, the 7-year-old 'got abroad' mare by Musketier out of Gimmesumsugar produced yet another incredible performance to win the Royal Arion Club-sponsored Indian Turf Invitation Cup (Grade-1) for the second year in succession.

At the age of 7, she's the oldest horse to win the glamour event.

Owned by the Dr. M.A.M. Ramaswamy Chettiar of Chettinad Charitable Trust, she was ridden with great understanding and judgement by C.S Jodha and trained to the minute by Karthik Ganapathy. She was stretched to the limit by another filly – King's Ransom who was gallant in defeat.

Both the winner and runner-up set a new track record for the distance.

Earlier, Northern Lights, a 'got abroad' 6-year-old gelding by Lethal Force out of Prescription had over three long and easy lengths to spare when winning the Major P.K. Mehra Memorial Super Mile.

Trained by Pesi Shroff and ridden by P.S.Chouhan, the grey sporting the colours of the Shirke family made the race his own, running to win as he liked.

Elite gathering: A.C. Muthiah, managing trustee of Dr. M.A.M. Ramaswamy Chettiar of Chettinad Charitable Trust, third from left, with Juliette's jockey C.S. Jodha, left, and trainer Karthik Ganapathy at the presentation ceremony for the The Royal Arion Club India Turf Invitation Cup. Also seen are the Turf Authorities of India and BTC chairman Shivkumar Kheny, Madras Race Club chairman M.A.M.R. Muthiah, James O'Donnell, Hugh O'Donnell, Suresh Paladugu and Dr. Swetha Reddy from Royal Arion Club. K. MURALI KUMAR

Old is gold: Juliette (C.S. Jodha astride), the oldest horse to win the Invitation Cup, being led in by the proud trainer Karthik Ganapathy gets a pat from the owner A.C. Muthiah. K. MURALI KUMAR

It's often been that when there are two greys running in a race, one of them invariably wins. Well if you had gone along with that you'd have been in clover as both the Mile and the Invitation had two greys.

In what must be a first-ever in the history of the Indian Turf, all the four Grade-1 races were won by 'got abroad' horses. (The mare was imported into the country and the foal was born in India).

The results: 1. FOSTER'S MILLION: ISNT SHE BEAUTIFUL (Neeraj) 1, Polished Girl (Suraj Narredu) 2, Devils Magic (I. Chisty) 3 and Promise Kept (P. Trevor) 4. 4-1/2, 1/2 and 1. 1m, 10.96s. ₹13 (w), 13, 15 and 22 (p), SHP: 32, THP: 50, FP: 42, Q: 40, Trinella: 338, Exacta: 1,785. Favourite: Isnt She Beautiful.

Owners: Mr. P.J. Vazifdar, Mrs. P.J. Vazifdar, Mr. M. Rishad & Mr. Mukul A. Sonawala, M/s. DT Racing & Breeding LLP. Trainer: S. Padmanabhan.

2. SANS CRAINTES STUD JUVENILE MILLION: SYNTHESIS (Suraj Narredu) 1, Madam Rich (Dhanu Singh) 2, Ricardo (A. Sandesh) 3 and Blackstone (P. Mani) 4. 2-1/2, 1-1/4 and 3/4. 1m, 13.09s. ₹14 (w), 11, 56 and 21 (p), SHP: 163, THP: 50, FP: 230, Q: 224, Trinella: 1,828, Exacta: 6,400. Favourite: Synthesis.

Owners: Ms. Ameeta Mehra, Mr. Balam Mohla & So Blest Trading Co. Pvt Ltd. Trainer: Rajesh Narredu.

3. DELHI RACE CLUB MILLION: STELLAR GOLD (Darshan) 1, My Vision (Rayan Ahmed) 2, Silver Canyon (P. Trevor) 3 and King Of War (Salman Khan) 4. Nk, 1-3/4 and 3/4. 1m, 51.88s. ₹55 (w), 19, 73 and 12 (p), SHP: 299, THP: 92, FP: 4,355, Q: 2,394, Trinella: 8,648, Exacta: 90,374. Favourite: Silver Canyon.

Owner: Dr. M.A.M. Ramaswamy Chettiar of Chettinad Charitable Trust. Trainer: S. Ganapathy.

4. DASHMESH STUD JUVENILE MILLION: KNOTTY CHARMER (Akshay Kumar) 1, Del Pico (S. Saqlain) 2, Invincible (I. Chisty) 3 and Brave Trooper (Hindu Singh) 4. Not run: Mazal Tov. 2-1/4, 3/4 and 4-3/4. 1m, 24.94s. ₹31 (w), 10, 10 and 11 (p), SHP: 31, THP: 33, FP: 66, Q: 18, Trinella: 107, Exacta: 443. Favourite: Del Pico.

Owners: Mr. K. Kamesh, Mr. Srikanth Badruka, Mr. N. Swaroop Kumar & Mr. K. Balamukunda Das & Mr. Dharmesh Mehta & Mr. M.N. Nambiar & Mr. D. Sanjeev Basapa. Trainer: Prasanna Kumar.

5. SURESH MAHINDRA MULTI-MILLION TROPHY: ALL ATTRACTIVE (P.S. Chouhan) 1, Imperial Blue (Antony Raj) 2, Ashwa Bravo (Yash Narredu) 3 and Moon's Blessing (Akshay Kumar) 4. 3-3/4, Lnk and Lnk. 1m, 23.53s. ₹33 (w), 15, 19 and 55 (p), SHP: 52, THP: 129, FP: 121, Q: 57, Trinella: 4,293, Exacta: 9,777. Favourite: All Attractive.

Owner: M/S. Kunal Gupta Stud Farm LLP. Trainer: B. Prithviraj.

6. MAJ. P.K. MEHRA MEMORIAL SUPER MILE CUP: NORTHERN LIGHTS (Lethal Force-Prescription) P.S. Chouhan 1, Once You Go Black (Win Legend-Aksinya) Akshay Kumar 2, Ahead Of My Time (Excellent Art-Miss Danehill) A. Sandesh 3 and Black Onyx (Stardan-Dancing Dame) Dhanu Singh 4. Not run: Kensington. 3-1/2, 2-1/2 and 1/2. 1m, 36.26s. ₹45 (w), 12, 16 and 10 (p), SHP: 36, THP: 69, FP: 334, Q: 180, Trinella: 504, Exacta: 13,998. Favourite: Ahead Of My Time.

Owners: Mr. Vijay B. Shirke, Mrs. Vijay B. Shirke, Mr. Jay V. Shirke & Darashaw Bloodstock Pvt Ltd rep. by Mr. Dara K. Mehta & Mr. Bhupinder Singh S.S. Trainer: P. Shroff.

7. ROYAL ARION CLUB INDIAN TURF INVITATION CUP: JULIETTE (Musketier-Gimmesumsugar) C.S. Jodha 1, King's Ransom (Multidimensional-China Creek) P.S. Chouhan 2, La Reina (Planetaire-Firemiss) A. Sandesh 3 and Supernatural (Multidimensional-Psychic Light) P. Trevor 4. Not run: Imperial Power and Kancha. 3/4, 8-1/4 and Neck. 2m, 28.40s (record time). ₹24 (w), 14, 14 and 27 (p), SHP: 41, THP: 59, FP: 52, Q: 38, Trinella: 391, Exacta: 1,296. Favourite: Juliette.

Owner: Dr. M.A.M. Ramaswamy Chettiar of Chettinad Charitable Trust. Trainer: Karthik Ganapathy.

8. JAPAN CUP: AMRELI (Srinath) 1, Artemis Ignacia (Likith Appu) 2, Slainte (Neeraj) 3 and Black Eagle (Akshay Kumar) 4. 3, Lnk and 1/2. 1m, 24.73s. ₹25 (w), 15, 16 and 30 (p), SHP: 47, THP: 85, FP: 73, Q: 37, Trinella: 706, Exacta: 915. Favourite: Amreli.

Owner: Mr. Rajan Aggarwal. Trainer: Pradeep Annaiah.

Jackpot: ₹10,426 (78 tkts.); Runner-up: 1,452 (240 tkts.); Treble (i): 816 (25 tkts.); (ii): 540 (81 tkts.).

LIVE TELECAST

Bangladesh vs England: 3rd ODI, FanCode, 11.30 a.m.
I-League: Eurosport (SD & HD), 3 & 7 p.m.
WPL: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 7.30 p.m.
Premier League: SS Select 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 1.30 a.m. (Tuesday)
LaLiga: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 1.30 a.m. (Tuesday)

INBRIEF

A hat-trick of titles for Max Purcell in India

Max Purcell of Australia made it a hat trick of titles on the Indian swing beating Luca Nardi of Italy 6-2, 6-3 to win the PMR Open $130,000 Challenger tennis tournament in Pune on Sunday.

Pramod Bhagat finishes with a silver and a bronze

Ace shuttler Pramod Bhagat settled for a silver medal in singles and a bronze in the mixed doubles with Manisha Ramdass at the Spanish Para-Badminton International Toledo 2023.

The results: SL3 (final): Daniel Bethell (Eng) bt Pramod Bhagat 21-6, 21-18. **XD SL3-SU5 (semifinal):** Lucas Mazur & Faustine Noel (Fra) bt Bhagat & Manisha Ramdass 21-17, 21-13.

Sreenidi remains unbeaten at home with late goals

Hyderabad's Sreenidi Deccan FC scored two late goals to snatch a point against Real Kashmir and remain unbeaten at homeon Sunday.

The result: Real Kashmir 2 (Kynshi, Boateng) drew with Sreenidi Deccan FC 2 (Dinesh, Gabriel).

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Misaki reigns supreme
Japan's Misaki Matsuda defeated compatriot Misaki Doi 7-5, 4-6, 7-6(6) to clinch the singles title at the ITF Women's 25k tennis tournament that concluded at the Padukone-Dravid Centre for Sport Excellence, here on Sunday.
In the doubles final, Dea Herdzelas of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Eden Silva of Great Britain beat the Portuguese duo of Francisca Jorge and Matilde Jorge 3-6, 6-4, [10-7].

RSPB in last four
Railway Sports Promotion Board edged All India Police Sports Control Board 3-2 to enter the semifinals of the Hockey India senior men inter-department National Championship here on Sunday.
Other results (quarterfinals): Central Industrial Security Force bt Punjab National Bank 3-3 [3-2 in the shootout]; Services Sports Control Board bt ITBP Central Hockey Team 9-2; Petroleum Sports Promotion Board bt Food Corporation of India 3-3 [4-3 in the shootout].

Sahana stars in DYES Mysore's big victory
Sahana top-scored with 22 points as DYES Mysore thrashed Vimanapura SC 83-32 in the Mathru Cup basketball tournament at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium on Sunday.
The results (women): South Western Railway 76 (Amrita 17, Bhandavya 14) bt MCHS BC 49 (Aditi 31) 49-25; DYES Mysore 83 (Sahana 22, N. Maria 20) bt Vimanapura SC 32 (Monideepa 12).

Dheeraj's ton highlights Seshadripuram College's facile win
Dheeraj Upadhya top-scored with 114 as Seshadripuram College recorded a comfortable 137-run win over Gandhinagar Cricketers in the KSCA (Group I) fifth division league.
The scores: Govt Science College 108 in 31.4 overs (S. Perumal 3/16, Hemanth 3/34) lost to Young Cricketers (1) 112/4 in 19 overs (Hemanth 41, Varun Prasad 28 n.o., Y.A. Appu 3/18).
Seshadripuram College 272/9 in 50 overs (U. Manjesh 31, Dheeraj Upadhya 114, R. Pradeep 65, Shubam Tayal 4/22) bt Gandhinagar Cricketers 135 in 42.1 overs (Samanyu Raina 32, Sreekanth Midde 50 n.o.).
Prathibhe Talented Trust 151 in 41.3 overs (R. Gopi 43, N.S. Pramod 28, Bushan Rao 3/29) lost to Canara CC 152/3 in 30.2 overs (B. Mayur 32, T.N. Pruthviraj 46 n.o., M. Shivanayaka 51).
United CC 205/9 in 50 overs (Naveen 66 n.o., G. Kroshick 3/25, Tejesh M. Pole 3/49) lost to Central College CC 211/7 in 39.1 overs (G.A. Nidhish 50, Ravichandran 43, B.R. Vivekananda 43, G. Nikith Krishna 3/42).

Goa Veterans FC triumphs
Goa Veterans FC beat Wawasan 2020 Malaysia 4-3 on penalties to win the Asian Veterans football tournament on Sunday.
The result (final): Goa Veterans FC (Nicolas Borges 19) 1 bt Wawasan 2020 Malaysia 1 (K. Dass 2) [4-3 on penalties].

'I wanted to finish on my own terms'

If we have a solid system in place we can produce champions, says six-time Grand Slam winner Sania

Future plans: Sania says she would give more time for tennis and the youngsters. NAGARA GOPAL

TENNIS

V.V. Subrahmanyam
HYDERABAD

Six-time Grand Slam winner Sania Mirza said here on Saturday: "I had a 20-year-long career. I wanted to finish on my own terms. I wanted to finish when I was still playing well. Playing a Grand Slam was the perfect way to end my career. I also wanted different things in life."

"There was no right or wrong time to stop playing. For me, it was a bunch of things. My body took a beating. I have had so many surgeries. It took me 45 minutes to warm up before the match. The physios were working more on me than the amount of time I was spending on the court," 36-year-old Sania said in her first media interaction along with her former doubles partner Bethanie Mattek-Sands.

"I don't have that motivation and the emotional capacity that lets me be at this level. The issue is not the level, but the work ethic. I feel if you need to push yourself for what you love, I thought it was time," Sania said.

"Yes, I will give more time for tennis and the youngsters, especially the next generation at the Sania Mirza Tennis Academies and also to my son Izhaan," she said. "Frankly, I am looking forward to a quiet life ahead," she added.

"We need a system to support these young girls. If we have a solid system in place we can produce champions. We can't produce them every 20 to 30 years. They have to come up almost every year. If we put a system in place, we can do that," Sania explained.

On the existing system in sports, Sania said she doesn't want to rate it.

"You can speak to anyone that made it to the top 100 in the last few years like Rohan, Mahesh, Leander, Somdev. They have come here despite the system not because of the system. They did it all by themselves. There is none that has come from the system," she said.

"The fact of the matter is, we will try and do whatever we can as individuals but we can do only so much as individuals. It is a costly sport," she said.

A mystery on the minefield: what ails Axar's bowling?

S. Dinakar
INDORE

What's the issue with Axar Patel's bowling? Where has that bite off the pitch disappeared?

Had the left-arm spinner got three wickets in the first Test at Nagpur he would have equalled R. Ashwin as the quickest to 50 wickets.

Stranded
Instead, Axar is on 48 scalps after three Tests on tracks that spinners dream about.

In this series he has sent down 39 overs for one wicket at an average of 103. Compare this to his pre-series stats of 47 wickets in eight Tests at 14.29.

The problem is technical. Somewhere along the line, he has lost his ability to pivot properly and is not able to get enough body behind the ball. Instead of applying revs, he is tending to push the ball through.

Lacking bite: Axar has just one wicket in three Tests in the series. GETTY IMAGES

Once you do that the ball is unlikely to grip the surface and turn.

On the minefield that the pitch at the Holkar Stadium was, Axar was not even turning the ball past the right-hander's outside edge. The Aussies tackled this tall, lanky bowler with a high-arm action, with ease.

Axar has to return to the basics and set right his action and release.

With the bat, however, Axar has been outstanding. He has added depth to the line-up, and made 185 runs in the three Tests at an average of 92.50. He scored 84 in Nagpur and a match-winning 74 in Delhi.

Baffling decision
Yet, the left-hander, with a penchant for hitting sixes, was bafflingly sent in at No. 8 and No. 9 in Indore. He was left stranded, unbeaten on 12 and 15 in Indore. When you are in form, you are not sent so low with only tailenders for company on such wickets where the tail is not expected to last long.

On his part, Axar has appeared composed and organised with the bat and, considering his form, should have come in ahead of Srikar Bharat. But then, much about how Axar has been handled in this series remains a mystery.

Pravaha Foundation's initiative to take women's chess forward

Sports Bureau

Pravaha Foundation and MGD1 have come together to make a promising move forward for Indian women's chess.

Pravaha, a Hyderabad-based NGO which supports gifted school-going children, has committed a fund of ₹2 crore over two years for this joint initiative called 64 squares. The beneficiaries include B. Savitha Shri, who won a bronze at the recent World rapid chess championship in Kazakhstan as a 15-year-old, and Vantika Agrawal, who was part of the Indian contingent at the Chennai Chess Olympiad last year.

Younger girls A. Charvi, Shubhi Gupta and Saparya Ghosh are also in the list. Besides, a boy, A.R. Ilamparthi will be supported through the programme.

"We started Pravaha five years ago with a focus on education, more specifically in the STEM fields," said Vinoda Kailas, managing trustee of Pravaha.

She added that Ilamparthi was included because of his recent performances.

FIVB keen to invest in the National team

Ambitious: FIVB general director Fabio Azevedo, left, and Volleyball World CEO Finn Taylor have big plans for India. STAN RAYAN

VOLLEYBALL

Stan Rayan
KOCHI

The FIVB, volleyball's World body, is closely watching the RuPay Prime Volleyball League in India and is thrilled with the drama and the fan craze surrounding the event. It it now taking steps to help India grow in the sport and join the planet's top teams.

"The world is watching and appreciating the PVL, we are receiving so many messages from all around the world appreciating the job that you are doing in your country," said Fabio Azevedo, the FIVB general directorhere on Sunday.

"From the FIVB side, to help the system become stronger, we want to invest in your national team mainly. We had a great meeting two days ago in New Delhi with your National Olympic Committee (Indian Olympic Association).

"We do believe in your national team, we want to dream big. We want to see India playing the next World Championships and the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics. We are all working for that and we have the full support of these amazing team of professionals and we have the full support of the NOC."

Foreign coach
That could see the arrival of an experienced foreign coach in India and the FIVB offering its expertise on infrastructure for players and how national teams should be selected.

"What is important to the needs of the country....an international head coach with lots of experience, that's the first step. Secondly, we are talking about statisticians, psychologists, trainers and everything else that we need for a team to perform better," said Azevedo, replying to questions from *The Hindu*.

India, which will host the FIVB Club World Championship in December, could see more international events coming its way.

"We are planning to have more international events in India in the next few years, mainly the under-age category. We are planning the under-19 World championship, the under-21 championship and a whole lot," said Azevedo, who along with Volleyball World CEO Finn Taylor, watched the PVL final.

BFI says team selection for Worlds done as per new evaluation policy

Y.B. Sarangi
KOLKATA

Following complaints from at least three boxers about their non-inclusion in the Indian squad for the upcoming World women's boxing championships, the Boxing Federation of India (BFI) is keen to resolve the issue even while insisting that the selection has been done as per the new evaluation policy.

National champions Manju Rani (48kg), also a former World championships silver medallist, Shiksha Narwal (54kg) and Poonam Poonia (60kg) – who scored 564, 573 and 567 points to come second behind Nitu Ghanghas (634), Preeti (623) and Jaismine Lamboria (612) respectively – have written to the BFI with a request to include their names in the squad. They are also contemplating legal options if their grievances are not addressed.

BFI secretary Hemanta Kalita said the boxers knew about the evaluation policy, prepared following consultations with high performance director (HPD) Bernard Dunne, beforehand.

Manju Rani. FILE PHOTO: A.M. FARUQUI

"All the boxers knew about the policy. It's on our website. The chief coach (Bhaskar Bhatt) explained the policy to the boxers in Hindi. The selection was fair and there was no scope for favouritism," said Kalita, who was part of the committee that reviewed all evaluations.

Earlier, selection was done either through trials or by picking the National champions.

Now, a High Performance Unit (HPU), comprising the HPD, the head coaches of men and women's teams and support staff, carried out the selection through a three-week evaluation process, which had the objective of selecting the athletes who are seen as 'genuine medal hopes.' Nine of the 12 National champions made the cut.

In the first week, athletes were tested for performance in training (including endurance, strength and conditioning). In the next two weeks, they were tested for technical and tactical skills, involving several aspects, during sparring as well as the above-mentioned parameters.

Scores given by the HPD and two head coaches were added to find the best athlete in each weight category.

"This is a contact sport and every boxer feels she has done well. This list may change in future and these boxers, who missed out this time, may get picked. We are addressing the issue," said Kalita.

Ajmal and Aishwarya qualify for finals in National Open 400m championships

M.R. Praveen Chandran
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

On a day of withdrawals, hot favourites V. Muhammed Ajmal (Kerala) and Aishwarya Mishra (Maharashtra) qualified for the finals winning their respective semifinals with ease in the 4th National Open 400m championships here on Saturday.

National Games gold medallist Ajmal won the second semifinal in 47.77s. Vikrant Panchal came in second in 48.40s. The first semifinal saw T. Santosh Kumar (Tamil Nadu) pip Kerala's Mijo Chacko Kurian at the finish. Santosh clocked 48.01s while Mijo came in second at 48.04s. Subham Dattatray (Maharashtra) was third in 48.11s.

Aishwarya Mishra led from start to finish to win her semifinal easily in 54.09s. Deepanshi (Haryana) was second in 55.87s while Kerala's A.S. Sandhra finished third in 57.99s to qualify for the finals. National campers DandI Jyothika Sri (AP), Kiran Pahal (Haryana) and Gowrinanda (Kerala) were engaged in a tight race in the second semifinal. Kiran was marginally ahead of the trio at the 350 metre mark. However, Jyothika (54.45s) finished strongly to edge out Kiran (54.48s) while Gowrnandana came third in 54.55s.

Spate of withdrawals in the u-20, u-18 and u-16 categories forced the organisers to cancel the heats and semifinals. Most of the junior athletes skipped the event as it clashed with the Junior nationals and All India inter-university meet.

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Government of Kerala

Shri. Pinarayi Vijayan
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala

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